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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD231315 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Response to Silkworm Attack—The Soviet ambassador to Kuwait denounced the latest "aggression" against Kuwait in a press statement cited by KUNA, describing the Silkworm attack as a "new link in a chain of hostile operations" by both Iran and the United States. Stressing the USSR's "extreme concern" over the escalation of the conflict, the ambassador said that such attacks are an "extremely dangerous" development, which may lead to the involvement of other states in the war.

Saudi King Fahd expressed his "deepest regrets" over the escalating Iranian "aggressions" in a telephone call to the Kuwaiti amir, SPA reported, noting that the Saudi monarch reaffirmed his country's solidarity with Kuwait "in all that safeguards its sovereignty and protects its territories." The agency added that Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan likewise telephoned his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim al-Sabah to inquire about the situation following the attack.

According to KUNA, Prince Sultan told Shaykh Salim that Saudi forces are "in complete readiness to support the fraternal Kuwaiti forces." An official Saudi statement cited by SPA affirmed that the Kingdom "stands fully" on Kuwait's side in the face of the Iranian "aggression," and urged international circles to "shoulder their responsibilities in checking these grave acts."

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn also telephoned the Kuwaiti amir to condemn the Iranian attack and express solidarity with Kuwait, according to Voice of the Masses and Amman radio reports. Egypt denounced the missile attack in a statement carried by MENA, expressing the view that the incident "doubles the responsibility of the Arab nation to take a firm and solid stand" against Iran's policy of continuing and escalating the war. Asserting that the escalation has reached the stage where it can no longer be tolerated or ignored, the statement called on all Arab countries to assume their responsibility, "individually and collectively."

In contrast, Libya's JANA carried a commentary on the missile attack by its Arab affairs editor who maintained that the United States bears "primary responsiblity" for the widening of the Gulf war. Expressing "regret that Arabs are with the Americans in the same trench against their Iranian brothers," the editor asserted that Arabs should not feel sorry for the burning and destruction of Arab oil, because the only beneficiaries of this oil are the United States, Israel, and the Arab "aristocratic bourgeoisie." Libya supports the side that confronts imperialism, the commentator added, and since the Iranian revolution now confronts imperialism, "we are with it."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments—In a Friday sermon reported by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the United States that despite its failure to heed Iran's "clear and logical" policy, "there is still room for you to turn back." The Americans should tell Iraq not to attack Iranian interests in the Gulf and should "identify the aggressor sooner."

As for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Iraqi regime's current backers, they should officially declare neutrality in the conflict and terminate their assistance to Iraq, he said. They should know that numerous "invisible shots" will be fired at their interests and that "bigger invisible shots are yet to be fired."

Iran on 598—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti that the Iranian Government has accepted UN Resolution 598 "in principle" because it believes the United Nations has supported a just and honorable peace in the Gulf for the first time, Rome radio reported. Speaking during a Rome stopover on his journey back from Managua, Velayati added that Iran will reply to the UN peace resolution within the time limit set by the UN secretary general. However, in remarks carried by Tehran radio, Velayati said he had informed Andreotti that Iran will not accept any Security Council resolution that lacks Iran's basic demands, such as recognition and punishment of the aggressor.

On Andreotti's idea that The Hague should determine the identity of the aggressor, Velayati said Iran would not want its interests to be endangered by the bureaucracy of this type of trial, IRNA reported, and he added that Iran wants "immediate identification of the aggressor and his definite punishment." The agency noted that Velayati had urged Andreotti in his capacity as Security Council chairman to take a "serious" stand against the United States for violating article five of Resolution 598.

Military Activity—An Iranian communique cited by IRNA reported that Iranian naval artillery "destroyed" an Iraqi gunboat in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway. On the other hand, an Iraqi spokesman dismissed the Iranian claim as "fabricated and baseless," adding that no naval battle took place in the area, according to INA.

Lebanon

Islamic Jihad Threat—The Islamic Jihad organization threatened to carry out suicide operations against U.S. and European targets in the Gulf in a statement delivered to a Western news agency cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. Beirut radio added that photographs of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson and French hostage Jean-Paul Kaufmann accompanied the statement.

Palestinian Camps Issue—Tehran radio announced that an Iranian delegation met with an Amal Movement official to discuss ways to end fighting around the Palestinian camps. According to the radio, the Amal official "praised the initiative" of Iran to resolve the issue.

In a related development, Beirut radio reported that the Amal Movement "welcomed" the decision by Sidon-based Nasirite leader Mustafa Sa'd to rearrange meetings between Amal and Palestinian officials.

Meanwhile, gunmen shot and killed a Palestinian as he was leaving the Shatila refugee camp which resulted in "violent clashes" along combat lines in the area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Syria

Murphy Visit—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy met and discussed "the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf, and Lebanon," Damascus radio announced.

Moscow Contacts—Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, met with Soviet official Karen Brutents in Moscow to discuss bilateral relations, Damascus radio noted.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi defended his government's recent austerity measures in a speech broadcast by Omdurman radio. He asserted that the measures would have been taken "whether we agreed with the IMF or not." He also stressed the need to confirm civil and military unity in order to contain "religious and racial fanaticism."

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba approved a package of financial measures presented by the planning and finance minister at a Council of Ministers meeting, Tunis radio reported. The package includes raising wages for agricultural, industrial, and civil service employees; granting a tax amnesty; lowering interest rates; raising the ceiling on the value of materials that may be imported; and increasing foreign currency allowances.

Algeria

SWAPO's Nujoma 'Satisfied' With Visit; Departs

LD221418 Algiers APS in English 1334 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, 22/10/87 (APS)—The chairman of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) Sam Nujoma left Algiers Thursday following a several day visit to Algeria during which he was audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid. Nujoma told that he is "very satisfied by this visit which was an occasion to inform Algerian officials on progress made by SWAPO in its struggle for independence."

"We leave Algeria encouraged and more than ever determined to recover our independence and we are satisfied about Algeria's support to our cause and to all liberation movements throughout the world," the SWAPO chairman added.

"The recent election of Algeria as a member of the UN Security Council gives us the conviction that the Namibian question and the causes of the oppressed people of Palestine and SDAR will be in the agenda of the UN," Nujoma concluded.

Malian Prime Minister Concludes Private Visit

LD230539 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Malian Prime Minister Mamadou Dembele concluded his private visit to Algeria today. [passage omitted]

Chad

Captured FRG National Released to Envoy

AB221110 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The FRG national captured in Ma'tan al-Sarra on 5 September was released by the Chadian authorities this morning. Gernot Bauer, who was captured by the FANT at the Ma'tan al-Sarra base, was officially handed over to the FRG's ambassador to Chad by Chad's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Gouara Lassou. [passage omitted]

Habre Sends Information Minister to Ghana

AB221708 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Hissein Habre, Chad's head of state, granted an audience at 0900 this morning to Adoum Moussa Seif, the minister for information and civic orientation. Mr Moussa Seif, who will deliver a message from President Hissein Habre to Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, the president's Ghanaian counterpart, came to be briefed on details of his mission to Ghana. The minister of information and civic orientation departed Ndjamena at 1100 for Accra.

Egypt

Statement on Attack on Kuwaiti Oil Platform

NC221545 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Egypt today strongly denounced the recent Iranian attack against fraternal Kuwait, asserting its readiness to shoulder its national responsibility toward its brothers in Kuwait.

In a statement issued by the presidency, Egypt called on all Arab states to assume their responsibility toward fraternal Kuwait, both individually and collectively. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the statement issued by the presidency on the recent Iranian attack against a Kuwaiti floating industrial oil-loading platform near Al-Ahmadi Port in Kuwait:

The Arab Republic of Egypt strongly denounces the recent attack against fraternal Kuwait and views it as a serious escalation of aggression against a state which is not a party to the war and which has not committed any aggressive acts against other states.

Hence, endangering the territory of that state and the safety of its citizens constitutes a blatant violation of the provisions of law and legitimacy and an obvious infringement of the rules recognized by the international community.

Egypt believes that this aggression doubles the responsibility of the Arab nation to take a firm and solid stand in relation to the policy of continuing the war, escalating it and expanding its scope, and increasing its repercussions on regional and international levels.

This escalation has reached the stage where it can no longer be tolerated or ignored in view of its serious implications for national Arab security, indeed for the very existence of the Arab nation and its future.

While Egypt declares its readiness to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibility toward its brothers in fraternal Kuwait, it calls on all Arab countries to assume their responsibility, individually and collectively, toward a sister state which has never hesitated to back its fellow Arab states during various situations and ordeals or to do its national duty.

The entire international community is also called upon to face up to that challenge to deter aggression and put an end to the growing threats facing a peace-loving state which made a tangible contribution to the consolidation of the principles of cooperation and fraternity among all nations and peoples.

'Abd al-Majid Confers With Soviet Delegation

NC221638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1542 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with members of the delegation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee currently visiting Cairo under the leadership of Prof Mikhail Kapitsa.

Following the meeting, Kapitsa said that Dr 'Abd al-Majid and the delegation members reviewed developments in the Middle East and discussed current issues in the Afro-Asian arena and ways of bolstering Egyptian-Soviet relations.

The Soviet official emphasized that his country supports the convening of an international peace conference to solve the Palestinian problem. He reiterated the Soviet Union's demand for bringing the Iraq-Iran war to an end.

Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev and Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, attended the meeting.

Invited to Visit Moscow

NC230958 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries, has said that Egyptian and Soviet views are identical on all the international issues broached during his meeting yesterday with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Before leaving Cairo for Aswan yesterday, Kapitsa said that he conveyed an invitation from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to 'Abd al-Majid to visit Moscow. The visit, he said, will probably take place early next year.

Media Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR

NC221621 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—This morning Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif received in his office Ivar Kazbers, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Radio and Television Committee [name and title as received], and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was held following the signing of a media cooperation protocol between the Egyptian Radio and Television Union and the Soviet State Radio and Television Committee earlier today.

The information minister expressed the hope that this protocol will represent a new step in the promotion and bolstering of media cooperation between the two countries and will enable them to follow up events and issues of concern to them both. This accords with Egypt's media strategy which aims to increase mutual understanding among the various countries of the world.

The meeting was attended by Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the radio and television board of trustees, and Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

The media cooperation protocol was signed earlier today by Husayn 'Anan, for Egypt, and Ivar Kazbers on behalf of the Soviet Union. The protocol provides for media cooperation, training, the exchange of programs, and the exchange of visits by media officials. [passage omitted]

The Soviet media delegation arrived in Cairo last Monday on a week-long visit.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed on Peace Process

PM221501 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10-16 Oct 87 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Khalil Matar in New York—date not given]

[Excerpts] Matar: Let us start with a question on George Shultz' forthcoming visit to the Middle East. Are there any signs of the peace process being set in motion or is it merely in preparation for his visit to Moscow?

'Abd al-Majid: We take the view that the situation ought to be in continuous motion and we are eager that the situation not remain at a standstill, therefore we must continuously seek to advance the peace process and work toward holding an international conference. We have adhered to this position for some time, particularly since Israel accepted the idea of an international conference after the Alexandria meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Shim'on Peres when he was prime minister in September 1986. Egypt still adheres to its position, which has not changed or altered.

The international conference is the sole remaining acceptable and practical means of reaching a settlement in the Middle East, and there is no other means. Its acceptance by the Israeli side was a positive step. We know the Israeli position. As for the U.S. position, it used to be one of insistence on direct negotiations as the only way, but now there is no longer a call for direct negotiations, but rather for an international framework, in other words, an international conference within the framework of Resolutions 242 and 338.

As we see it, this is the change which has occurred in the U.S. position. We noticed this week that the American Jewish Congress issued a statement supporting the idea of an international conference, which I consider to be an

important development because a number of influential American Jews with Israeli ties have openly declared their support for the idea of an international conference.

In addition, if the situation starts moving in this manner then we estimate, especially after President Reagan's speech at the General Assembly on Monday 22 September, that the United States will continue as an active party in moves toward peace and that Shultz' visit is part of U.S. moves to highlight the importance of settling the Middle East problem. The fact that this visit comes before Shultz' visit to Moscow lends it more significance. We are eager for the Middle East problem not to go astray or become lost in the maze of relations between the two superpowers. [passage omitted]

Matar: Is there anything new regarding the problem of Egyptian prisoners in Iran?

'Abd al-Majid: We have asked the Red Cross to get in touch with the Iranian Government to free the Egyptian prisoners. Officials in the international organizations have told us that Iran has not responded. So we are still waiting for Iran to take the initiative in this humanitarian sphere. If Iran were to do so it would demonstrate its goodwill toward Egypt.

Matar: Will that constitute a start toward political initiatives?

'Abd al-Majid: I do not think so. Generally speaking it is premature to speak about the political dimensions of this subject.

Matar: Let us return to the issue of the Middle East. Israel is itself divided over the international conference, and there is the Israeli veto by Shamir against the possibility of any moves toward a conference. So how can this obstacle be overcome without waiting?

'Abd al-Majid: The internal Israeli problem ought to be solved before we can proceed toward a conference. We hope that Israel will speak with one voice over the conference after there has been tremendous worldwide support for it in all international circles.

Inside Israel, Peres supports this conference but Shamir opposes it. As for our position, we hope, first of all, that the Israeli position will be unified. If not, then matters will not start moving.

Matar: Can Washington not exert more pressure on Israel to get the conference moving?

'Abd al-Majid: I consider the word pressure to be a difficult word for any state. We say "an attempt to persuade," or an attempt to come up with solutions on how to reach a peaceful settlement, meaning that the most important thing is for Shamir to give us alternative solutions. We say that direct negotiations are not the solution. We have gone beyond this stage, and today there is a kind of international conviction that the solution is an international conference. It is not logical that the whole world is wrong and Shamir alone is right.

Matar: Will the international conference be an umbrella for direct negotiations?

'Abd al-Majid: Yes, of course, of course. There is no doubt about that. Direct negotiations will take place between those concerned among the parties to the conference. Otherwise how will they be able to solve the problem? Will they arrive at a settlement by means of a carrier pigeon?

Matar: But Syria says that it rejects direct negotiations.

'Abd al-Majid: The question is: Does Syria want to recover the Golan, or will it leave it under Israeli occupation? Why do you not ask the Syrians that question?

Matar: The Syrians say they are against direct negotiations. Will an international conference take place without them?

'Abd al-Majid: Actually, I cannot explain or understand the Syrian policy, whether with regard to Iran, the Palestinian cause, or the Golan. I hope the Syrian foreign minister will clarify exactly how these problems are to be solved.

Matar: Much is being said concerning Egyptian-Libyan contacts. Are these reports true and how do you see the present situation between the two countries?

'Abd al-Majid: There is no conflict or dispute between us in Egypt and the Libyan people. Libya, as far as we are concerned, is a neighbor and a sister state and its people are kith and kin toward whom we feel love and affection. However, our conflict is with the Libyan leadership, which wants to impose its influence on the region and to make war in territories other than its own, such as in Chad, which is regrettable. We consider the cease-fire between Libya and Chad as a positive step and we hope it will continue.

As far as our relations are concerned, I wonder what Libya wants from Egypt? Is it conceivable that it will impose its policy and point of view on Egypt? We possess a sufficient degree of maturity and sense to know our interests and aims. We do not wait for Libya to tell us what we should do and what is in Egypt's interests.

Matar: Is there still the possibility of improving relations between Egypt and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi?

'Abd al-Majid: The possibility is there, meaning that if Al-Qadhdhafi is prepared to improve relations then, I am sure that the Egyptian leadership would be prepared to do so. However, the improvement ought to be genuine, and not a false, partial, or insincere attempt.

Matar: What is required from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to improve relations?

'Abd al-Majid: We want relations free from any activities or campaigns against Egypt. We only wish the best for the Libyan people, and we do not interfere in Libyan internal affairs. So Libya should not interfere in Egyptian internal affairs and should not imagine that Egyptian policy proceeds according to the whims of a particular group or according to its ways.

Matar: Are there any existing contacts between the two countries?

'Abd al-Majid: My information is that there are no contacts between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Papers Assess Outcome of Shultz Regional Tour

NC231115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Friday editions of Cairo newspapers highlight Egypt's denunciation of the Iranian act of aggression on the Kuwaiti oil-loading terminal and the statement issued by the presidency which asserts Egypt's readiness to shoulder its national responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Cairo papers' editorials deal with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's recent tour of a number of the region's capitals to assess the views of all parties on the possibilities of boosting the peace efforts concerning the Middle East issue.

Al-Ahram states that the United States would do well if it could arrive at the right conviction in resolving the Palestinian problem in a just way. Ending the Arab-Israeli conflict should be a priority, since all the hotbeds of conflict that have erupted in the region in the past few years are only a natural result of the deadlock and the inability to move along the path of peace regarding the main issue, namely, the Middle East question.

Al-Ahram contends that if Washington wants a genuine easing of tension in the region and truly desires to back peace efforts and convene an international conference as an acceptable framework for the probable negotiations, it has to face things directly and exercise its role and influence in persuading Israel to abandon its policy of stalling and procrastinating. This obstructs the convening of an international conference for peace.

The paper emphasizes that words of censure or blame are no longer sufficient to address the Middle East issue. Steps and measures are now needed to make everyone aware that Washington is capable of putting into perspective its special relationship with Israel.

Al-Akhbar calls for a quick explanation that dots the i's and crosses the t's from the United States concerning the strange statement that George Shultz made following his latest visits to certain Middle Eastern countries. In its Friday editorial, the paper states that this statement reveals that the United States has retreated from its position on the issue of an international conference for peace in the Middle East after various sources in Washington had expressed support for the idea of convening such a conference. This statement once again shows clear bias toward Israel's viewpoint, which rejects the convening of an international conference.

Al-Akhbar denounces Shultz's stand which became clear after his tour of the Middle East which he concluded in Israel. It has become clear from Shultz' statement that Israel is the only country of whose views he is convinced, ignoring the views of the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, the countries that support the idea of convening an international conference.

Al-Akhbar goes on to say that Israeli objections, which are clear in Shultz's statement, came only from the most extreme radicals in Israel, foremost of whom is Yitzhaq Shamir, who is doing his utmost to prevent the convening of an international conference so that Israel will not be forced to give up occupied Arab territory. At the same time, there is nothing in Shultz' statement to indicate that he met with Shim'on Peres, the foreign minister and Labor Party leader, who frankly expressed his agreement on the conference during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria last year. During his term as prime minister, Peres also abided by his acceptance of convening this conference and repeated his adherence to this stand several times.

Libya

U.S. 'Responsible' for 'Widening' War in Gulf

LD222024 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—News reports today state that a missile struck an offshore oil platform off Kuwait. JANA's Arab affairs editor, in commenting on the incident, stated:

Despite our regrets over the widening of the war, we know that the United States is responsible for this widening and it is the United States that sent its naval fleets to the Gulf, reflagged ships, and stuck its nose into Gulf problems. It therefore shoulders primary responsibility for widening the war and creating acute tension in the region.

The editor added: We do not think any member of the Arab nation regrets what is happening to the oil of the Gulf and peninsula. Why should Arab citizens feel sorry for the burning and destruction of this oil if the United States and the Zionist enemy are benefiting from it, since oil revenues are invested in their banks and used in building projects for their prosperity while Arab citizens live lives of poverty and need?

This oil is also used to fuel the imperialist and Zionist war machine, which slaughters and destroys Arabs. Nobody benefits from it except the aristocratic bourgeoisie, which linked its destiny to that of colonialism and Zionism.

The editor concluded: In this situation, we regret that Arabs are standing with the Americans in the same trench against their Iranian brothers. By this we do not refer to the war between Iraq and Iran—it is not included here because it is a meaningless war—but we condemn the stubbornness in continuing this conflict and not stopping it. We also stand at the side that confronts imperialism, and since the Iranian revolution now stands against imperialism and confronts it, we are with it.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Guinea-Bissau

LD221204 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA) — The minutes of an agreement were signed between the Great Jamahiriyah and Guinea-Bissau in the economic, scientific and technical fields in Tripoli this morning. The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Trade, and on behalf of Guinea-Bissau by Manuel dos Santos, member of the Political Bureau and minister of commerce and tourism. The minutes provide for increasing and bolstering cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Visiting Minister Departs

LD221250 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—Manuel dos Santos, Guinea-Bissau's minister of commerce and tourism, departed Tripoli this morning at the conclusion of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to President

LD220938 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpts] This morning, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, received Mr Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi RCC member and special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Mr Hasan 'Ali gave a statement to the national press in which he said:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] a meeting with Col Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, and during that meeting I conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Taya and the Mauritanian people [words indistinct] in order to consolidate the cooperative relations between our two fraternal countries and the means to develop them [words indistinct] and the latest developments of the Iranian aggression against the eastern front of the Arab nation. [end recording]

This morning, Mr Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi RCC member and special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, left Nouakchott for his country after a 24-hour visit to Mauritania. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Gives Speech on IMF, Islam

EA221313 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Speech by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at an *Al-Siyasah* seminar; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, security is an issue on which opinions diverge [word indistinct] but they agree on its vital importance. [passage indistinct]

Many leftist centers did not review developments which occurred in these aspects and [word indistinct] many of the communist countries stood in complete opposition to the IMF from the start. However, a number of them are now IMF members. International and social movements in the big industrial countries and the international arena have caused very wide-ranging developments in many of these international organizations. Not exactly to the required level it is true, but to a large extent.

The truth is, that before we interacted with these organizations we established certain standards, and when we learned that these organizations were ready to respect these standards, we responded. I think the measures we have achieved in this respect would have been achieved in any case, whether we agreed with the IMF or not, because of the need for equilibrium in an internal and external situation which had lost its financial balance.

We have not stopped there. There is nonalignment, goodneighborliness, and careful dealings with international and voluntary organizations. It ought not to stop here, but should try to contain the conflicts in our region. We are dragged into these conflicts because of the blending of borders into each other. So, I can say, that abiding by these concepts, we are continuing to contain these conflicts, not as a [word indistinct] institution of arbitration and reconciliation, but because it is in our own interests to stop them.

With regard to territorial unity, it is the rebel movement which started in 1982 that threatens it. On this we have made moves on three axes. The first axis is a military roundup to stop any attempt to impose a foreign will on

the homeland; the second, is a political axis which emphasizes that the objective factors which led to the rebellion can be, and must be, faced politically in order to reach agreement.

Preparations have actually been made to reach a political equation on this issue. Then there is the diplomatic axis, which stresses that what we are doing recognizes objective problems and seriously strives to solve them peacefully.

There is the question of identity and what happened to it. Islam is a (?centrist) religion. However, in the September laws [Shari'ah laws] it was expressed in a non-Islamic manner. It was non-Islamic in its (?content), non-Islamic in the method of its application, and non-Islamic in its priorities. We are trying to balance Islamic expression with the rights of citizenship for all Muslims and others in an equation based on centrism and the (?book) [the Koran].

As for Arabism, racist concepts and nationalist exaggerations constitute a great danger in this area and they must be reviewed on the basis of acquisition and intermixing.

The Africanism which springs from a racial definition leads to confrontation. What we need is a coexistence of geographical and cultural definitions that accepts the unity of citizenship and the homeland, but allows for religious, racial, and cultural diversity. We call this the Sudanese charter and we are trying to implement it via the national constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

It is important to confirm civil and military unity, to extend national bridges, and to contain fanaticism, religious and racial fanaticism by means of the Sudanese charter, and social fanaticism by means of the social contract. This is important. If we fail to extend national bridges, to confirm civil-military unity, and to contain religious and racial fanaticism through the Sudanese charter and social fanaticism through the social contract, democracy will be endangered and its cornerstones will be destroyed one after the other.

[Indistinct passage omitted on recent disturbances, food, and security]

With regard to water security, Sudan is not taking advantage of its share of Nile water. This cannot happen until the Al-Rusayris Dam is completed. Concerning the plan for the infrastructure, we are giving top priority to the construction of the Al-Rusayris, Satit, and Al-Hamadab Dams. We hope they will be financed during the 4-year plan.

As far as the Nile organization is concerned, we think there must be a comprehensive agreement with the other Nile states on the Nile organization. This should reinforce previous agreements and plan the Nile's future as a source of water. For the first time we have started looking at other water resources. We are now seeking a plan to unify supervision of all water resources. [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Finally, the issue of population security. We are now in the process of laying down a national population plan which is based on, first, ascertaining the true proportion of the population. Sudan was and still [words indistinct] regarding the movement of Sudanese in our country. This must be reexamined on the basis of a new national plan which determines a balance between the rural and urban areas.

There is also the refugee problem. We in Sudan are now host to more than 2 million refugees. This number of refugees, if increased — and it is subject to increase — endangers all our national plans. That is why we have told all the authorities concerned that Sudan cannot take any more refugees. What is now required of us is to deal with the present refugees in a manner which preserves national interests. [passage omitted on largely indistinct passages on defense, commitment despite diversity in religion and race, condemnation of rebel movement, and the concluding remarks]

Personnel Changes in Culture Ministry Announced
JN221540 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1446 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Oct (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, after reviewing a memorandum submitted by the acting culture and information minister on reorganization of the ministry's work, relieved and appointed a number of officials at the Ministry of Culture and Information.

It was decided that the following officials will be retired for the public welfare:

Faysal Mahmud Khadr, under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information; 'Imad Muhammad Nasr, director general of the Information Department; Muhammad Sulayman Bashir, director general of the broadcasting station; and Ahmad Isma'il Shilab, director general of the Culture Department.

It was also decided that Muhammad 'Ali Dalil will be appointed under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information; Salih al-Muhammad Salih will be appointed director general of the broadcasting station; and Ahmad Hamdi Badr al-Din will be appointed director general of the television service.

Commerce Minister Meets With Soviet Ambassador
JN221856 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 22 (SUNA)—Minister of Commerce Dr. Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil reviewed here today with the Soviet ambassador to Sudan ways of boosting trade exchange between the two countries within the trade protocol signed last year.

The encounter discussed the obstacles facing the implementation of the protocol including the administrative procedures dealing with the financial exchange between the central banks in both countries.

Sudan will import from the Soviet Union, according to the protocol, sugar, textiles and building materials.

2 Loans Secured for Water, Textile Projects

JN221920 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Oct (SUNA)—Two loan agreements were initiated here this morning between Sudan and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD]. Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, under secretary of planning at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, signed for the Sudanese Government while Dr Jamal Shafiq, head of the AFESD delegation, signed for the AFESD.

According to the first agreement, the AFESD will lend Sudan 10 million Kuwaiti dinars to partially finance the Port Sudan drinking water project. Under the terms of the second agreement, the AFESD will lend Sudan 4.5 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance the rehabilitation of the spinning factory of Hajj 'Abdallah and the textile factories of Shandi, Kaduqli, Neyala [name as received], Al-Duwaym [name as received], and Kusti.

The director of the Loan and Technical Assistance Department said that the two loans were granted with easy repayment conditions at a 4 percent interest rate. He added that the loans will be repaid within 20 years and that there is a 5-year grace period.

Tunisia

Bourguiba Approves Financial Measures 22 Oct

LD222127 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpts] At Government House in Cusbah this morning the supreme combatant chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

During the meeting the minister of planning and finance submitted a review of the country's economic and financial development. His excellency the president expressed satisfaction with the steps taken by Tunisia in economic and social development and stressed the need to further activate the national economy by making available factors that will encourage development.

In accordance with his excellency's generous and firm view, which stems from a deep knowledge of the country's affairs, and in light of the instructions and directives he gave the government to improve the country's general social atmosphere, bolster the confidence of investors, give new momentum to the dynamics of investment, and introduce greater flexibility into the exchange system, the supreme combatant gave his permission for the implementation of the following measures.

Concerning the improvement of the general social atmosphere and the creation of a new momentum in economic activity:

1. Raise the minimum agricultural and industrial wages in two stages: by 5 percent beginning 1 November 1987 and by 5 percent during 1988.

2. Raise the production grant for the benefit of civil service employees by 3 percent of total salaries and wages. This will be awarded every 3 months beginning in 1988.

3. With regard to other types of employees, the amendment of wages will be linked to the capability of each establishment to improve productivity, reduce costs, and make better use of production capacities. The possible increases will be awarded according to exact calculations and within the production or productivity grant.

In any event, such an increase should not lead to additional costs that have no parallel improvement in productivity. The proposed increase of this grant will be considered within the framework of the committees of the establishments, which will study all proposals regarding increased production and improved returns.

Concerning the bolstering of investor confidence:

1. A general tax pardon has been granted. All taxable persons who have submitted their tax declarations for the past 4 years will not be scrutinized.

2. Liquidate outstanding tax debts by abolishing the penalties and interest due on these debts, and by granting facilities for the payment of such debts over a period of 5 years and in installments amounting to 5 percent of the total debt payable every 3 months, on the condition that the first installment be paid before the end of 1987. It may be possibile to reduce the tax debt by no more than 50 percent by making investments or acquiring assets that enjoy state priority or privileges.

3. Abolish the penalties and interest due for delays for those citizens who submit their tax declarations before 31 December 1987.

4. Abolish the implementation, throughout the 7-year plan period, of the financial control system based on the growth of personal wealth whenever this growth is linked to investment and the acquisition of properties or assets enjoying state privileges.

Concerning the bolstering of the dynamics of investment:

1. Reduce the cost of a loan by approximately two points, thus lowering the maximum cost from 16.7 to 14.5 percent with regard to short-term loans, and from 14.9 to 13.3 percent with regard to medium-term loans.

2. Expand the money market to include, in addition to banks, other financial establishments such as insurance companies, social security establishments, and investment companies, with the aim of making their performance more beneficial.

3. Abolish all authorization measures by the Central Bank with regard to loans and their refinancing.

4. Raise from 20,000 to 100,000 dinars the value of materials that may be imported without having to transfer currency, provided the imported materials fall within the importer's framework of activity and are not on the list of prohibited materials specified by the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the protection of our modern industries.

5. Speed up the restructuring of establishments that encounter financial and other difficulties to assist them in adapting and adjusting to the requirements of the reform plan.

Concerning the introduction of more flexibility into the exchange system:

1. Permit export establishments to keep, according to specific conditions, a percentage of their incomes in foreign currency, under the title of operations for the export of goods and services, within the framework of an account in foreign currency to be opened with the banking apparatus to fund the revenues of these establishments in the best of conditions.

2. License persons residing abroad, and those who receive legitimate incomes from abroad, allowing them to have current accounts in foreign currency which can be used for their own purposes.

3. Grant a pardon in the field of exchange operations, which will be effective until the end of 1988, to encourage the transfer of monies that are abroad to Tunisia.

4. Urge the social security funds to provide to their members personal loans equivalent to one and one-half times the monthly wage to finance housing, which can amount to 10,000 dinars, and loans for buying personal cars.

5. The Central Bank will permit the refinancing of loans related to the financing of home construction, improvements, extensions, and repairs.

6. Reduce, until the end of 1988, the percentage of the amounts due on the registration of real property from 15.6 to 6 percent.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Phones Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN221814 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 22 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister, today telephoned His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, for reassurance about the situation in Kuwait in the wake of the reported missile attack against an oil-loading platform near Al-Ahmadi Port.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent reassured the Bahraini prime minister concerning the stable situation in Kuwait, affirming that the fire in the stricken area had been extinguished. He also thanked the prime minister for Bahrain's fraternal stand in support of Kuwait in light of the aggressions. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah affirmed that Bahrain's stand is appreciated by Kuwait—its leadership, government, and people.

Iranian Envoy Summoned

JN221756 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 22 Oct (WAKH)—The Bahraini Foreign Ministry today summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires [words indistinct]. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister, conveyed to the Iranian charge d'affaires Bahrain's view of the firing of an Iranian missile at the industrial island used to ship oil from Kuwait. He also conveyed Bahrain's view of the serious escalation and increased regional tension that might result from this incident.

Kuwait

Government Reacts to Iranian Missile Attack

Condemned by Defense Minister

LD221057 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1006 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA)—[Passage omitted] Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah has announced that the Iranian missile that struck the oil-loading platform this morning was launched from the northern part of Iraq's Al-Faw Island, which is now occupied by Iranian forces.

The minister also informed KUNA that Kuwaiti forces on Faylakah Island observed the Silkworm missile in flight both heading south and falling on the platform.

The minister said that Kuwait is in the process of taking appropriate measures to deal with this type of missile.

The minister condemned the new Iranian aggression and said that such practices do not serve security and stability in the Gulf but instead increase the current tension and escalate the conflict.

A source at the Defense Ministry said that the Iranian aggression caused a number of casualties among workers on the platform and that the injured were given first aid.

Sources in the fire-fighting services have announced that the fire was brought under control and was put out. The cooling of equipment and machinery on the platform is currently being carried out. Fire-fighting tugs from the Kuwaiti oil company's Al-Shu'aybah fire brigade and from the Coast Guards participated in the fire-fighting operation.

UN Urged To Condemn Iran

LD231057 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] The United Nations—Kuwait has called on the international community to condemn Iran's continued aggression against Kuwaiti territory, given the fact that Kuwait is not a party to the Iraq-Iran war. Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations, following last night's meeting with Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, told KUNA that Iran will only stop such acts when the international community takes a collective stand against its attacks on Kuwait.

Abu al-Hasan conveyed a message to Perez de Cuellar concerning the Iranian aggression against an industrial offshore oil terminal. He conveyed a similar message to Maurizio Bucci, Italy's permanent representative, whose country is the current UN Security Council chairman. Abu al-Hasan added that he discussed with Bucci the next step the United Nations should take concerning the continued Iranian aggression against Kuwait.

In reply to a question on whether Kuwait would request the UN Security Council to hold a meeting, he stressed that Kuwait reserves this right.

Attack Called 'Hideous Design'

LD231017 Kuwait KUNA in English 0929 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 23 (KUNA)—Daily *Al-Qabas* Friday labeled the hostile Iranian attacks on Kuwait as a hideous design to drag it into the war.

Al-Qabas published today said Iran's attacks on Kuwait comes within a studied plan to drag Kuwait to the war noting that yesterday's attack on the Kuwaiti offshore oil terminal was an indication of the dangerous escalation of the conflict.

Al-Qabas argued that Iran's impositions of the war on Kuwait, is a step that should push Kuwait to enhance its defensive capabilities to protect its sovereignty.

The Iranian technique of escalation against Kuwait is a "real challenge" of the Arab leadership particularly since it was timed before the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit due in Amman next Nov 8, the paper said noting Arab leaders are required to overcome their disputes for the sake of the pan-Arab security.

The Arab summit was called to discuss among other pressing issues, the Iraq-Iran war.

Describing Arab condemnation statements as "mere words", devoid of deeds, called on the Arab countries to take a firm and strong stance toward such challenges. [sentence as received]

Qatar

Minister Denounces Iranian Attack on Kuwait

JN231015 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0954 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, 23 Oct (WAKH)—Qatar has expressed its denunciation of the recent attack against fraternal Kuwait consisting of an Iranian missile that struck the oil-loading platform east of Al-Ahmadi.

In a statement to QNA today, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, asserted that Kuwait is not a party to the war and that recurrent violations of its sovereignty in this manner will increase tension in the region and endanger its security. He stated that while reaffirming its support for Kuwait in defending its sovereignty and the safety of its territory and fraternal people, Qatar appeals to the international community to redouble its efforts to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for ending the war and settling the Iran-Iraq conflict in a manner preserving both parties' legitimate rights.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Assures Kuwaiti Amir of Support

LD221829 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Oct (SPA)— King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, had a telephone conversation with his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, to be reassured about the situation there following the aggression against Kuwait's industrial island after it was struck by an Iranian missile at dawn today.

SPA has learned that the beloved king expressed to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir his deepest regrets at the continued escalation of Iran's aggressions, a matter that would heighten the existing tension in the Arabian Gulf waters. He, may God protect him, reaffirmed to His Highness Shaykh Jabir the Kingdom's solidarity with the sisterly State of Kuwait, its government, and people in all that safeguards its sovereignty and protects its territory.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, had a similar telephone conversation with his brother Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti defense minister, to be reassured on the situation there following Iran's aggression against the industrial oil terminal island near Al-Ahmadi Port.

His Highness Prince Sultan reaffirmed the Saudi Kingdom's support for Kuwait vis-a-vis these continuous Iranian aggressions.

'Circles' Urged To Check 'Grave' Iranian Acts

LD221510 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Oct (SPA)—The Saudi Arabian Kingdom has reiterated its condemnation of the repeated Iranian aggressions against the fraternal State of Kuwait.

This was stated by an official source to the *Saudi Press Agency* (SPA) at noon today. The source said: We have followed with extreme concern the report today disseminated by KUNA concerning this morning's Iranian missile attack against the Kuwaiti oil terminal which caused a number of casualties among workers as well as huge material losses.

The source added that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, while reiterating its condemnation and denunciation of the successive Iranian aggressions against the security and sovereignty of an Arab and Gulf state, wishes to affirm that it stands fully on the side of its sister state Kuwait in the face of Iranian aggression. At the same time, it appeals to international circles to shoulder their responsibilities in checking these grave acts in the Arab Gulf region.

Crown Prince Hails U.S. Visit as 'Positive'

LD211859 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650GMT21 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Washington, 21 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, described his visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush as good and positive.

In a brief meeting with the Saudi information delegation and editors of Saudi newspapers at the Saudi Embassy in Washington at noon today, his highness said: The success of our visit to the United States and the bringing of our views closer together are due to the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques, due to his political weight in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

The crown prince pointed out that his meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate was an amicable and warm one, as well as a clear expression of the historic friendship and strong relations that bind Saudi Arabia and the United States. His highness said that everyone understands the importance and status of the Kingdom as well as its prestige in the Arab and Islamic worlds. [passage omitted]

Brazilian Army Minister Leaves Riyadh 22 Oct
LD222313 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 22 Oct (SPA)—General Pires Goncalves Leonidas, Brazil's minister of the Army, departed Riyadh for Brazil this evening following a 4-day visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat on Visit, Gulf Situation, Summit
JN221740 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 22 Oct

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 22 (GNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealt with the emergency Arab summit to be held in Amman and the need to adopt a unified Arab stand to face the serious escalation in the Gulf War and end fighting.

'Arafat told *Al-Ittihad* newspaper of Abu Dhabi in an interview published today that he agreed with Shaykh Zayid on all issues discussed and thanked him for the support extended to the Palestinian people in all stages of their struggle by the UAE Government and people.

He warned that the explosive situation in the Gulf was threatening world peace and security.

The PLO leader held the Iranian leadership responsible for the American presence adding: "I have sent messages to the religious leadership in Qom warning them that their obstinance and refusal to accept peaceful initiatives will drag foreign fleets to the region."

'Arafat said that the PLO has prepared a Palestinian working paper which will solve all pending issues to be submitted to the emergency summit "if the Arab leaders agreed on its contents". However he added that he would withdraw the paper if a unified Arab paper was prepared for discussion by Arab leaders.

Yemen Arab Republic

Iranian Attack Condemned, Kuwait Supported
JN222056 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] A responsible source in the YAR Government has stated the following to *Saba' News Agency*:

The YAR has received news of a missile striking a Kuwaiti oil-exporting island with great regret and extreme concern. Such an act represents one of the daily tragedies resulting from the Iraq-Iran war's continuation. This also constitutes a dangerous expansion of this war, a matter further complicating the situation, increasing regional tension, and posing dangers of unpredictable consequences and uncontrollable courses.

While expressing its strong condemnation of this irresponsible act, the YAR announces that it stands by its brothers in Kuwait and is prepared to extend any support the situation may warrant for cooperation with fraternal Kuwait to defend itself and protect its territory. The YAR calls on the international community, represented by the United Nations, to intensify its efforts to put an end to the Gulf war and to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 by employing all means available to the United Nations, so that this organization will maintain its credibility and its resolutions' effectiveness, particularly regarding such serious issues as the Gulf war.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives, Meets Salih
JN221404 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at 1200 today brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

During the meeting, they discussed issues and developments in the Palestinian arena in light of the overwhelming popular uprising in the occupied territory against the Zionist occupation forces. They also discussed new developments in the Arab Gulf region, the dangerous escalation in the Iraq-Iran war, issues to be discussed at the emergency summit conference convening in Amman on 8 November, and means of consolidating Arab solidarity to confront the challenges and dangers posed to the Arab nation in the current delicate circumstances. The two sides additionally viewed issues pertaining to the concerns of the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; and Brother Dayfallah (Samilah), commander of the Republican Guards and Standing Committee member.

Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sanaa last night on a several-day visit to our country within a tour of a number of regional countries. In a statement to SABA', 'Arafat explained that he will meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih prior to the emergency Arab summit's convocation to hold consultations on all basic issues of interest to the Arab nation to be raised at this

conference. He added that he wanted to discuss means of confronting challenges to the Arab nation—especially in light of the current dangerous situation, including the recent developments in the Gulf region—in addition to developments on the Palestine question, the situation in Lebanon, and a number of important issues to be raised by the upcoming Arab summit conference.

Brother 'Arafat was welcomed at the airport by a number of officials; Brother Jamal 'Arafat, the PLO representative in Sanaa; and a number of Palestinian revolutionary officials in Sanaa.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN221846 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat departed Sanaa this evening. In a predeparture statement to SABA', 'Arafat explained that during his meeting with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, a number of current issues were discussed. These were headed by the emergency Arab summit conference to be held in Amman on 8 November as well as the need to formulate a unified Arab position toward all issues to be raised. Chief among these issues are the Palestine question, the Gulf war, and the situation of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

'Arafat said: We briefed the brother president on the details of the Palestinian masses' popular uprising in the occupied territory in confronting Zionist-U.S. attempts to repress the Palestinian people. He added that the uprising was crowned by the Palestinian figures' refusal to meet with George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, to protest the closure of the PLO information office in Washington, D.C. He additionally indicated that talks with President Salih also touched on international efforts to convene an international conference, especially the upcoming meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the USSR foreign minister.

In concluding his statement, Brother 'Arafat expressed thanks for the constant, principled stands of our country—leadership, government, and people—in supporting the Palestinian struggle.

Brother 'Arafat was seen off by a number of brother officials; 'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, the PLO charge d'affaires; and a number of Palestinian revolutionary officials in Sanaa.

President Pledges Support for Kuwaiti Amir

JN230829 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn telephoned Brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, today at 0815 Baghdad local time. During this telephone conversation, his excellency reiterated Iraq's consistent stand, which voices solidarity with its brothers in Kuwait—the people, amir, and government.

He also voiced the Iraqi leadership's and people's denunciation of Iran's aggressive stands against fraternal Kuwait and asserted that the Iranian rulers' aggressive stands will only bring disgrace, shame, and the curse of history to Iran. The honorable Arabs will always have a record increasing their glory, power, and high position in history as well as in present and future generations, he added.

Ramadan Meets With Polish Party Delegation

JN221640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met with Marek Wieczorek, leader of the parliamentary group of the Polish Democratic Party, and the delegation accompanying him. Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed Iraq's satisfaction with its developing relations with Poland and its concern to continue promoting these relations to serve the two friendly peoples' interests.

Ramadan noted the aggressive policy pursued by the Iranian regime as well as its insistence on continuing the war and its rejection of all international resolutions. He affirmed that the Iranian regime will lose and be defeated as a result of its international isolation.

Marek Wieczorek highly praised Iraq's peaceful stands represented by its acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war peacefully and comprehensively. He affirmed his country's support for these stands and also affirmed his country's pride in its developing relations with Iraq as well as its earnest desire to support and expand these relations in all fields.

During the meeting, they also discussed ways to develop relations between the two countries in all fields.

Gulf War Operations, Air Strikes Continue

Communique No 2,883 Issued

JN221714 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,883 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces have continued their combat activities in defense of the dear homeland. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. In the II Army Corps central sector, one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed and their occupants killed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

2. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one enemy machinegun was destroyed and its crew wounded, one infantry position was destroyed, one vehicle was set on fire and damaged, and one ammunition dump was detonated.

3. In the IV Army Corps sector of Maysan, one enemy soldier was killed.

4. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, two ammunition dumps were destroyed.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, three enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 October 1987

Gunboat Denied Sunk

JN221942 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Iraq has denied Iran's claims of having destroyed an Iraqi gunboat and damaged another in Khawr 'Abdallah. In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the Iranian claim is fabricated and completely baseless. He added that no battle between Iraqi and Iranian naval units has taken place. The spokesman added that the Iranian rulers are accustomed to shamelessly employing these ridiculous methods, thus deceiving their afflicted people.

INLA Inflicts Casualties

JN221301 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 22, INA—The National Liberation Army of Iran [INLA] has announced that its forces killed or wounded more than 400 Iranian troops and took 108 others as prisoners in Marivan, western Iran on October 16.

This has been stated in a press release of the Iranian students in Karachi supporting the People's Mojahedin of Iran.

The press release also gave details of various encounters with the Iranian troops, indicating that the National Liberation Army has stepped up its activities and continue to inflict heavy casualties on the oppressive forces of Khomeyni regime.

Papers Continue Backing Kuwait Against Iran

JN230937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* states that strong Iraq, which on all occasions announced its support for fraternal Kuwait and its absolute readiness to defend Kuwait's security and national sovereignty, continues to be ready to perform its role and pan-Arab duty in fighting alongside Kuwait.

Commenting on yesterday's new Iranian missile attack against Kuwait, the newspaper says Kuwait's security is an indivisible part of Arab security, meaning that an aggression against Kuwait is an aggression against the entire Arab nation. The paper recalls President Saddam Husayn's assertion in a press interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah*'s chief editor when he stated:

"Do not say that Iraq is already waging a war, because we are able to allocate a number of military divisions for you at the appropriate moment in order to fight by your side. We will also fight on this front with the same strength and momentum."

The paper concludes that a solid, coherent, and firm Arab stand towards Khomeyni's Iran is the only way to curb Tehran's evil, agressive intentions. It is also the only way to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, dignity, and pan-Arab security.

The newspaper *Al-Qadisiyah*, which specializes in military affairs, expects that the Iranian regime, through its alliance with the Zionist entity, will escalate its aggression against Kuwait and other Arab countries whose installations, supply routes, and cities are within range of weapons it obtained either directly from the Zionist entity or from other countries hostile to the Arab nation. The newspaper says these countries seek to achieve illegitimate and ill-omened interests through a cheap opportunistic method, thereby disavowing their decades-long policy of voicing support for the liberation and peace movements.

Al-Qadisiyah also says it is known that the aggression against Kuwait was carried out in coordination and after consultations with the Syrian and other Arab regimes. This aggression came less than 48 hours after statements by Iran's Prime Minister Musavi, in earshot of Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, in which he said he would attack Arab countries in the Arabian Gulf. The newspaper affirms that this coordination included attacks that will be carried out against other Arab countries.

Al-Qadisiyah warns that we as Iraqi fighters announce in a roaring voice that the Arab armed forces both in Iraq and in other Arab countries are always able to thwart the evil of aggressors, cause their designs to rebound, and inflict grave defeats on them.

In its editorial, the newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* says the Iranian regime's aggressions against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other countries are only preludes similar to those that preceded its aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980. The newspaper warns that the Iranian regime seeks to drag the whole region into war not only to compensate for its defeat against Iraq, but also to apply its aggressive, gambling policy, particularly since this regime discovered that some Arabs are allied with it, are appeasing it, or remaining silent concerning it.

Al-Jumhuriyah today states that the Arabs are asked to adopt a serious, decisive stand and express it through practical measures against the Iranian regime as well as against its traitorous ally, the Hafiz al-Asad regime. This accursed regime will otherwise be encouraged to continue its aggressive policy.

Al-Jumhuriyah expresses the conviction that while today reiterating our solidarity with Kuwait and avenging Kuwait by punishing the Iranian regime with our own means, we urge the Arab countries to adopt a serious, decisive, and effective stand against this aggressive regime.

Musavi Visit Brings 'Disgrace' to Syria

JN231141 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Oct 87 p 2

["Spotlight" column by Sabri entitled: "Special Concepts"]

[Text] Tehran radio has described Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's current visit to Damascus as having special meanings and concepts.

It appears to us that Tehran radio wanted to say that Musavi's visit to Damascus, one that took place place only 6 days after a missile was fired on the Bilat al-Shuhada' School in Baghdad and only 1 day after two missiles were fired at Kuwait, must have special meanings and concepts.

Musavi will enter Damascus as a conqueror. He is visiting Damascus to bring it the glad tidings that his regime fired a missile at an Iraqi school, thus killing scores of women and children and wounding hundreds. He is visiting Damascus to boast that his regime fired two missiles at Kuwait and struck two oil tankers. Do he and his regime not deserve to be congratulated by Damascus? Are they not partners in the aggression and the crime? Are they not strategic allies?

To us it appears that Musavi's visit to Damascus will also be a working visit, especially since Hafiz al-Asad is preparing to participate in the emergency Arab summit. He must therefore be given instructions on what he will say and how he will act at the summit.

This is one aspect of this visit's special meanings and concepts. Tehran is the party that defines the moves Damascus must undertake. Tehran is the party that gives the orders while Hafiz al-Asad must carry them out. Those who believe the opposite will be mistaken. Those who think Tehran may listen to what Damascus has to say, accept its advice, and rally to its viewpoint will also be deluded.

The truth is that Musavi's visit to Damascus at this time is a scandal for Hafiz al-Asad's regime. This is because the head of the Syrian regime continues to discuss his regime's role in preventing the [Iran-Iraq] war from spreading to other countries while the Khomeyniite regime fires two missiles at Kuwait, thus demonstrating its determination to expand the war. The visit by the Iranian regime's prime minister thus took place only 1 day after two missiles were fired at Kuwait, while Damascus continues to boast about how it succeeded in preventing the war from expanding!

In spite of all this, no one can rule out the possibility that once Musavi returns to Tehran, Hafiz al-Asad will then stand up and impudently proclaim that Musavi has pledged to him in writing that his regime does not covet 1 inch of Kuwaiti territory. In addition, no one can rule out the possibility Hafiz al-Asad will proclaim that Iran did not fire the two missiles at Kuwait but rather against U.S. tankers in the Gulf.

Musavi's visit to Damascus brings disgrace, humiliation, and shame to the Al-Asad regime. Traitors, however, are devoid of any feelings.

Officials Comment on Shultz Talks, Peace Plan

Shamir Interviewed

TA230831 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha Friedman and political correspondent 'Oz Frankel at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Friedman] Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of your office, tells *Ma'ariv* in this morning's issue that the prime minister made two secret political initiatives to promote the peace process this year which are no less important than Peres' deeds, but that the weak point of these initiatives lies in the fact that they cannot be disclosed as long as they do not yield any results.

[Shamir] He said that. So what?

[Friedman] Does he know what he is saying?

[Shamir] I am sure he does. I did not read the interview and therefore cannot give you my interpretations. I assume he knows that when it comes to political talks and initiatives, it is very important to maintain secrecy until the sides agree to lift it.

[Frankel] We will return to the question of secrecy. You made a public speech—I would say even a politically important one—in the Knesset this week. You said, among other things—and I am quoting:

The Israeli Government is prepared to hold a political dialogue with the Soviet Union. Israel recognizes the fact that the Soviet Union has legitimate interests in the Middle East. We will be ready to exchange views with the Soviet Government, and its authorized representatives, in order to remove misunderstandings, to bring positions closer together.

These are new statements coming from you. What role do you envisage for the Soviet Union in the political process in the Middle East?

[Shamir] I do not think there is anything new in what I said. A few years ago when I met with Gromyko I told him that we were ready to discuss the problems of the Middle East with them, just as we are prepared to talk to other countries, not just with the United States, which is our ally. We discuss the problems of the Middle East with the European countries, with France, the United Kingdom, and Italy.

All this is on the condition that the Soviets have normal relations with us and change their very negative policy regarding Jewish emigration. Only then would we be prepared to discuss matters.

What happened is that I actually repeated this position in my address to the Knesset. I stressed then, and I would like to stress it once again, that we are not interested in hostile relations with the Soviet Union.

[Frankel] But what is the specific role you envisage for the Soviet Union in the political process and negotiations?

[Shamir] I did not say that I envisage a special importance or role for the Soviet Union. Let me repeat what I have been saying all along: Peace between Israel and the Arab countries will be established through direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors without the intervention of any foreign element.

[Frankel] Not even the auspices of the two superpowers? What if Moscow and Washington....

[Shamir, interrupting] I cannot stand the term auspices. We are not the lackeys of anyone, not even of our best friends. All these reports are mere speculation and are totally unfounded.

[Friedman] Whatever the case may be, the Tehiya Movement suspects you of being ready to conduct direct peace talks with Jordan under the auspices of the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and has even submitted to the Knesset a motion of no confidence in the government on this matter.

Can you appease the Tehiya members and tell them: There is not and there never will be such a thing?

[Shamir] I do not know what the Tehiya Movement thinks. It did not say such a thing to me. I assume it fell prey to the disinformation which has been afflicting the press in the last few days. These reports are untrue and were published out of malicious motives.

[Frankel] Still, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was here this week. How would you sum up his mission in the Middle East? Did he bring new formulas or proposals?

[Shamir] True, Secretary of State Shultz came here exactly 1 week ago. We conferred with him and held serious and thorough talks with him about our bilateral relations, the international situation, the problems of the Middle East, and ways to promote the peace process.

Views were exchanged and the secretary of state emphatically asked us not to publicize anything about the ideas we exchanged. This is only normal and natural in these kinds of talks. After all, publicity may occasionally do a lot of damage to the objective of the talks.

[Friedman] In other words, you are saying that there are new ideas but they cannot be publicized?

[Shamir] Do not interpret my words. I said that we exchanged ideas and we promised not to publicize them. Those who do primarily damage our friendly relations with the United States because we gave our promise to each other.

To my deep regret, I cannot give you any details about the talks because I gave my promise not to do so. The day will come when these will be publicized and then all those who today write mountains of speculative reports will be so ashamed that they will not know where to hide themselves.

[Frankel] The leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States are scheduled to meet in November and the issue of the Middle East will probably be raised in their talks. Do you regard this dialogue as helping the cause of peace and the political process?

[Shamir] Look, meetings are being held in Moscow even today. Many international problems are being discussed here and the possibility should not be ruled out that the problems affecting us may also be raised. The problems of the Middle East may also be discussed at the summit meeting in Washington, but nothing will be decided without our consent.

[Frankel] The situation in stock exchanges around the world, in the United States and in Asia, was featured prominently in the international and Israeli media this week. The world economy would seem to be undergoing a crisis. Will this crisis also affect us? Have there been any reports about a possible cut in aid to Israel?

[Shamir] As do most countries, Israel depends on the economies of the big countries, particularly the United States. Thousands of links connect us with the United States. It is too early to predict how this will affect us.

Moreover, we are still hopeful that the situation in the United States will stabilize, that the gloomy forecasts will not come true, that the United States will demonstrate its immense and vast economic strength, and that stability will be preserved in the United States and the world over. [passage omitted]

Aide Sees Disinformation

TA221414 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Avi Pazner, the prime minsister's adviser on communications affairs, has said there is a disinformation campaign in the media concerning the results of George Shultz' visit to the Middle East. He said note should be taken of the remarks made last night, by the U.S. secretary of state, who said that there has been no significant progress in the peace process yet.

Pazner said that any publicity or speculation just piles up difficulties in the path of those dealing with the matter.

Soviet Role Viewed

TA221008 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris and agencies]

[Excerpts] Jordan's King Husayn declined to respond to the latest American-Israeli peace proposals and told U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz this week in London that he would do so only after the November 8 Arab summit in Amman, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday. Husayn did not, however, reject the proposals outright.

The nature of these proposals remained unknown yesterday. The proposals, agreed upon by Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Peres and Shultz during the weekend talks in Jerusalem, apparently run a precarious middle way between Peres's proposals for an "international conference" and Shamir's traditional insistence on "direct Israeli-Arab talks," without super-power imposition or even input.

Shamir, it appears, has agreed to some sort of modified Soviet role in future Middle East peacemaking, albeit without a formal "international conference" framework.

Such a framework could possibly follow the precedent set by the December 1973 Middle East peace conference in Geneva which followed the Yom Kippur War. That conference was held under UN auspices and its co-chairmen were then-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and then-Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

Shamir's aides yesterday reiterated that Shamir remained firmly opposed to the international conference concept or to Israeli-Arab talks under "Soviet-American auspices."

Shamir and Peres yesterday held talks in Jerusalem with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who briefed the two on Shultz's talks on Tuesday in London with Husayn.

Israeli officials refused to divulge any details of yesterday's meetings here. But sources in Jerusalem suggested that the absence of any negative announcements by Husayn or Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, with whom Shultz met earlier this week, regarding the Israeli-American proposals for a peace negotiating framework is an indication that "they are not completely unacceptable to the Arabs."

Murphy arrived in Cairo yesterday and briefed Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on Shultz's talks in London, ministry sources said.

The sources suggested that the key to the present Israeli-American initiative lies in Moscow, where Shultz is due to begin talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, tomorrow. Shultz will then hear at least the Soviet's tentative response to the proposals, which most certainly assure the Soviets a far more limited role in Middle East peacemaking than that originally envisaged by them for themselves when they launched the "international conference" idea in the 1970's. [passage omitted]

The sources suggested that it is likely that Husayn and, in his wake, Mubarak will give their views on the American-Israeli proposals only after the Soviets make their stand clear. Israeli officials hope that if Moscow agrees to the proposals, Husayn and Mubarak will fall into line. "The key is in Moscow," said one official.

Shamir's aides yesterday said that talk of Shamir having softened his line on a Soviet role in Middle East peacemaking was "mere speculation" and said: "Why should Israel always be asked to soften its line. Why shouldn't Husayn (soften his own position)?

In Moscow, Soviet officials indicated yesterday that agreement on the final text of a historic super-power accord to dismantle intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) seemed almost certain during Shultz's two-day visit.

Shultz is due to arrive in Moscow this morning after an all-night train journey fronm Helsinki. He was originally scheduled to arrive by air but Moscow airports have been closed by fog since the weekend.

David Baker adds:

Foreign Minister Peres has called for an intensification of Israel's dialogue with the Soviet Union in order to reach out to Jews behind the Iron Curtain. "Let's have the sort of relations with Russia that will enable the Jews there to keep in touch with us," Peres said last night. He was addressing the World Conference on the Demography of the Jewish People, meeting in Jerusalem.

Putting part of the blame for the fact that most Soviet Jewish emigrants opt for countries other than Israel on "anti-Israel Soviet propaganda," Peres said that Israel must find a way of communicating its viewpoint to potential Soviet olim [immigrants].

In what he termed the most dangerous problem facing Israel, he warned of the deteriorating demographic situation. "Between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean, 51 per cent of the babies born are not Jewish. Only increased aliya can rectify the situation."

Peres on UN Meeting With Ethiopian Counterpart

TA221143 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpt] "Several weeks ago I met with the foreign minister of the Marxist Ethiopian regime in New York and asked him to allow 15,000 Jews to leave." This was said yesterday by Foreign Minister and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in a speech to the World Conference of Jewish Demography in Jerusalem.

"The Ethiopian foreign minister was cold and showed a negative attitude toward my request. He claimed that if the Jews were permitted to leave, Muslims and Christians would also ask to leave," Peres said, adding that when he asked the Ethiopian foreign minister whether Muslim and Christian groups have asked to leave the country, he received a negative answer. [passage omitted]

Further Reactions to Stock Market Crash

U.S. Aid Cuts Feared

TA221651 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Report by Dov Gilhar]

[Excerpt] A deep fear was expressed in the defense establishment today about the possibility that there might be a cut in U.S. aid to Israel in the wake of the Wall Street stock exchange crash. Several hints to that effect reached the defense establishment, including one from a senior U.S. Administration official in Washington, mainly refering to aid in the coming years but not to government aid already promised to Israel.

The Defense Ministry believes it would have suffered grave setbacks now, following the stock exchange crash and the latest hints, had it been decided to continue with the Lavi project. [passage omitted]

Alignment Fears Economic Harm

TA221228 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Labor Alignment ministers are concerned about the possibility that the Israeli economy might be seriously affected by the sharp fall in share prices in stock exchanges around the world, especially on New York's Wall Street.

The ministers devoted their weeky meeting yesterday to a short debate on the possible repercussions of the crash on the Israeli economy. Minister 'Ezer Weizman said at the meeting that the latest crisis again shows the need for Israel to cut its economic dependence on the United States.

Economics and Planning minister Gad Ya'aqobi expressed his opinion that the United States is in for an economic crisis and recession which will affect Israel's ability to export to that country, and Israel's capability to raise funds there. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated that Israel was right in canceling the Lavi project.

Tel Aviv Stock Market Down

TA221115 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by Shlomo Ma'oz and Avi Temkin]

[Text] The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange took a dive for the second consecutive day as investors dumped non-banking shares. Demand for foreign currency, and for assets linked to foreign currency exchange rates, markedly increased in the stock exchange, where there was a keen demand for bank shares. In the black market, foreign currency rates surged upwards.

At the end of trading, prices of the regulated bank shares were up 2 per cent. According to Capital Markets commissioner Yehuda Drori, this reflected the attractive yields of the shares rather than expectations of a devaluation.

Conditions in the capital market were apparently not only the result of Monday's Wall Street crash. Recovery in foreign bourses left investors in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange unimpressed. They tried to unload shares, thus indicating that domestic developments were clearly on their minds.

From the Treasury's point of view, the Wall Street crash could not have come at a worse time. Drori revealed that, on Tuesday, the last day on which holders of bank shares in savings schemes could give redemption orders, there was a marked increase in the number of investors asking for cash. Holders of shares worth NIS300 million asked for cash at the last minute. This raised the figure of shares being converted to cash from an expected 50 per cent to some 68 per cent.

Orders for conversion to cash totalled NIS1.4 billion, out of NIS2b. The funds will be deposited in the investors's accounts on October 30, according to the official dollar exchange rate for October 27.

Drori said he expected no dramatic effects on the economy from the large amounts of cash that will be injected by the end of the month. He estimated that half of the sums cashed in will be deposited almost immediately in savings schemes or provident funds. The balance will not necessarily be used to finance consumption, he said.

Meanwhile, in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange investors continued dumping non- banking shares. The General Share Index, excluding bank shares, plunged by 5.79 per cent. The prices of 265 shares went down, 80 remained unchanged and only 73 went up. The public liquidated about $20m. worth of assets in mutual funds.

On the black market, European currencies rallied strongly, with one Deutschmark being sold at NIS 1, 13 per cent above its official rate. Other European currencies were also in demand. Japanese yen were unavailabe. Even the dollar was being traded at NIS1.72.

Meanwhile, at the Treasury some relief was caused by the news that the dollar had regained strength in foreign markets. Earlier this week, when the American currency plunged, ministry officials said privately that a much lower dollar would make devaluation inevitable.

But the trouble is apparently not over for the decision-makers. The Treasury and the Bank of Israel are apparently getting their signals crossed over developments. The Finance Ministry is convinced that following the large injection of cash into the economy in the wake of the redemption of NIS1.4 b. in bank shares, interest rates should go down.

But the Bank of Israel is still perplexed. With devaluation expectations spreading, the bank is very fearful of enabling the public to borrow cheaper shekels for investment in foreign currency.

The bank's governor Mikha'el Brunos had been due to appear yesterday at the Knesset Finance Committee to explain monetary policy. But earlier this week, he asked for a delay until Tuesday, hoping that by then he would be able to tell the MK's [Knesset Members] of the bank's new policy.

Treasury Opposes Shekel Devaluation in 1987

TA211312 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] Recent internal deliberations in the Treasury and senior levels in the Bank of Israel indicate that there is no intention to devaluate the shekel, at least not by the end of 1987.

Finance Minister Moshe Nisim yesterday expressed his firm stand against a devaluation. He said that such a step would immediately undermine economic stability and could cause inflation to soar again.

Senior Industry and Trade Ministry officials are also currently opposed to a devaluation, even though this step could make the profitability of exports pick up at once.

David Bo'az, the new director of the Treasury Budget Department, yesterday said that exports should be encouraged by lowering production costs. He also expressed his strong objection to a devaluation of the shekel.

Locally Organized 'Terrorist' Attacks Growing

TA221448 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew
21 Oct 87 p 6

[Report by Yo'av Limor]

[Text] Since the beginning of 1987 there has been a sharp rise in the number of attacks carried out by locally organized terrorists and extremist groups. Some 55.7 percent of the attacks this year that were uncovered before or after they were carried out were locally organized, compared to 48 percent in 1986.

The Islamic Jihad, which last year carried out 1 percent of all the attacks, this year carried out 2.55 percent of them.

On the other hand, there was a decrease in the number of attacks carried out by Fatah: 27.8 percent this year compared to 35 percent the previous year.

Security sources point out that the increase in locally organized attacks in the West Bank and Gaza is of concern in view of the great difficulty in uncovering them.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, pointed out that the increase in strength of religious elements such as the Islamic Jihad are worrying. The general said these elements are carrying out more murderous attacks and are recruiting many people to do so.

The latest events in Gaza and the exposure of the Islamic Jihad there show the dangerous strengthening of these groups and the intensification of their activities.

Since the beginning of 1987, 3 Israelis have been killed and 28 wounded—soldiers and civilians alike—as a result of terrorist attacks.

In 1986, 2 Israelis were killed and 31 wounded. In 1985, 9 were killed and 16 wounded.

Husayn Denounces Attack on Kuwaiti Island

JN221518 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn today telephoned His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, and expressed his denunciation of the perfidious aggression Iran perpetrated today against the industrial island near the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed concern over this unjust Iranian aggression and stated Jordan's support for fraternal Kuwait in defense of its sovereignty and Arab identity. His majesty also reiterated his denunciation of the Iranian attempts against the Arabian Gulf states' security and stability.

His highness the amir of Kuwait told His Majesty King Husayn that Kuwait—amir, government, and people—is proud of Jordan's solidarity with Kuwait under his majesty's leadership. He also lauded Jordan's pan-Arab stand alongside its Arab brothers.

KUNA Notes Denunciation

LD221713 Kuwait KUNA in English 1423 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Amman, Oct 22 (KUNA)—An official source at the Jordanian Royal Court said here Thursday that King Husayn of Jordan has made a telephone call to his highness the amir of Kuwait in which he expressed strong denunciation for the heinous aggression made by Iran against the offshore loading terminal near Al-Ahmadi Port today.

The source said King Husayn has expressed concern for the Iranian aggressor and voiced Jordan's support to Kuwait in defending its sovereignty and Arab identity.

King Husayn renewed his condemnation for the Iranian attempts which are directed against security and stability of the Arab Gulf states.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Jassim al-Bahwah received several telephone calls from Jordanian officials and heads of trade unions condemning the missile attack.

The Kuwaiti ambassador met today with Jordanian Premier Zayd al-Rifa'i, but no announcement was made following the meeting.

The talks at the meeting are supposed to be dealt with the Iranian missile attack on the terminal and other issues of bilateral interest. [sentence as received]

Iranian Attack Against Kuwait 'New Black Page'

JN230840 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Oct 87 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Hostile Line and the Need for Solidarity"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's telephone call yesterday to his brother the amir of Kuwait was an expression of this country's firm solidarity with Kuwait and with any other Arab countries that may come under attack or blackmail.

Traditionally standing behind other Arab states at all times and under various circumstances, Jordan views this latest Iranian attack against oil and economic interests in sisterly Kuwait as a serious escalation of a characteristically reckless, hostile, and irresponsible Iranian posture.

Adding this new black page to the aggressive and treacherous record of the Iranian regime shows an extremely negative potential and opens the way for a real deterioration in Arabian Gulf security. Iran seems to be out to drag the region into the abyss of security deterioration; only God knows where it will end.

This open aggression against a peaceful Arab state, striking at its economic interests, and recklessly inflicting human and material losses upon it can only be interpreted as a foxy invitation for deeper international polarization and an expansion of the tragic war which the Iranian rulers insist on pursuing to make it embrace a wider, more dangerous circle.

The responsibility for heightening Gulf tension and introducing foreign navies into this part of the world lies with Iran, which cherishes expansionist dreams that are becoming clearer day by day.

The Iranian aggression against Kuwaiti economic interests is damning evidence of the bankruptcy, impotence, and despondency of the rulers of Tehran. Having failed to soften up the Iraqis on the battlefield, they have now turned to civilian and economic targets in neighboring Arab states like the children's school in Baghdad and the Kuwaiti oil loading terminal.

The Iranians must be living in a fantasy world of their own if they think they can intimidate or blackmail Arab countries through such acts of aggression. These acts can only whip up sentiments of hostility toward the policies of the Iranian leadership.

It is now evident that the expansionist dreams of Iran's leaders make no distinction between one Arab country and another; the threat is common to all Arab states and the menace of the hostile disposition of Iran's leaders hangs over all of them.

After yesterday's aggression against sisterly Kuwait, Iranian intentions are now all too clear. Under the circumstances, we cannot help but urge our Arab leaders to measure up to the challenges thrust upon us by Iran's hostile aspirations; they must present a united front when they hold their summit conference scheduled for 8 November in Amman.

In the face of such designs and aggressive intentions, the only option left for the Arabs is solidarity.

Israeli 'Intransigence' Obstructs Peace

JN230930 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Oct 87 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Peace Killers!"]

[Text] Has Richard Murphy completed what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz started or has he brought new proposals to sway the intransigence of the Israeli leaders who are not budging from their rejection of an international conference?

If the Israeli leaders, specifically Shamir, have tried to make Shultz, and perhaps Murphy after him, understand that there is a need to bid farewell to the international conference, then the problem does not lie as much in the notion of accepting or rejecting the international conference as in the disastrous results that will take place if the idea of convening an international conference is actually torpedoed.

In any case, one must scrutinize the calculations that are being made. One must renew the pressures and the efforts seeking to establish the international conference as the sole formula for the settlement of the Middle East crisis.

One must also view the efforts by Secretary Shultz and his assistant Murphy as part of a continued search for the lost peace, if one can say so. In this case, it is imperative to continue assessing U.S. credibility through tangible facts since this is of interest not only to the Arabs, but also to world peace, given that our region is one of the keys to this peace.

The Israeli leaders, who have proven time and again that they are capable of undermining peace every time a propitious opportunity presents itself, will realize when such opportunities are no longer available that they should have grasped these opportunities regardless of how minimal they are.

This is Israel's weakest point because the Israelis are not taking the time factor into consideration and are not aware that they will be greatly harmed by the mines they will detonate. The world seeks peace and peace is being wrecked against the Israeli gate. After this, it will be difficult to search for it in the maze of lost opportunities.

Islamic Jihad Vows Suicide Operations in Gulf

NC230743 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0726 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad organization has threatened to carry out suicide operations against U.S. and European targets in the Gulf. In a statement recveived by a Western news agency in Beirut yesterday, the organization said that its chief objective in Lebanon is to establish an Islamic regime.

The organization affirmed that it was responsible for blowing up the Marine and French paratroopers' headquarters in Beirut 3 years ago. The statement was issued on the occasion of the anniversary of the bombing of the two headquarters. [passage omitted]

Claims U.S. Marines Bombing

NC230605 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0556 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] In a statement distributed among foreign news agencies and local newspapers in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad organization, which is holding U.S. and French hostages in Lebanon, has disclosed that it was responsible for blowing up the Marine and French paratroopers' headquarters in Beirut in October 1983.

The lengthy statement, accompanied by photographs of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson and French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffman, as well as by photographs of the U.S. Marine and French paratroopers' headquarters prior to their destruction, details the Islamic Jihad's political stands and developments in the region, particularly regarding the U.S. and Western and military presence in the Gulf.

The Islamic Jihad said: There are thousands of our strugglers in the Gulf who are awaiting the appropriate moment to create new glory for Islam and the Muslims.

Al-Jumayyil Cables Kuwaiti Amir on Attack

NC222058 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has cabled Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, denouncing the shelling of Al-Ahmadi Port. He said that he believes that this attack will not affect Kuwait's positions toward the Arab and Gulf regions.

Murphy Arrives, Holds Talks With Al-Jumayyil

NC231056 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1049 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] We have just been informed that Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, arrived in Beirut a short time ago and met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil.

Arab League Official Arrives, Meets With Birri

NC231307 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Lakhdar al-Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, arrived in Beirut this morning as part of his Arab tour. The Arab League official met with Minister Nabih Birri at 1200 today.

In a statement following the meeting, Al-Ibrahimi said: Brother Minister Nabih Birri has sent a cable to the Arab League secretary general dealing with his initiative [on the camps issue]. We, therefore, have come to discuss this topic in light of the Arab League Council's blessing of this initiative and of the agreement reached between the Palestinian sides and the Amal Movement on 11 September. We hope this initiative will be implemented and the camps crisis will be resolved.

The Arab League envoy added that his meeting with Minister Birri was fruitful and constructive. When asked if there is any specific move by the Arab League in the wake of the unanimous approval of this initiative, Al-Ibrahimi said: We are trying to help implement this initiative.

In answer to a question about the Arab summit and the issue of the south, he said: I am not concerned with such topics.

Parliament Calls for 'Harmonious' Government

NC221447 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies held a session under the chairmaship of Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today. During the session the Chamber expressed its rejection of the current situation and demanded that action be taken to end it.

In this connection, the Chamber called for the formation of a harmonious government capable of restoring its own authority and of enabling the state to regain its revenues, utilities, and ports throughout Lebanon to halt the present deterioration in the general situation.

During the session, Speaker al-Husayni, Acting Prime Minister al-Huss, Minister al-Hashim, and the deputies appealed to the teachers to end their strike, noting that their demands will be studied quickly.

SSNP Labor Department Head Kidnapped 22 Oct

NC221812 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] According to security sources, gunmen kidnapped Tawfiq al-Safadi, director of the SSNP [Syrian Social National Party] Labor Department, this afternoon after storming the offices of *Sabah al-Khayr* magazine.

Found Dead in Beirut 23 Oct

NC230749 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] The body of Tawfiq al-Safadi, director of the SSNP [Syrian Social National Party] Labor Department, was discovered behind the Maryland Hotel in West Beirut a short while ago. He was handcuffed and had a bullet wound in the head. It should be recalled that Al-Safadi was kidnapped by 10 gunmen who stormed the offices of *Sabah al-Ahayr* magazine yesterday.

Amal Praises Iran's Initiative on Camps War

LD221844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that within the framework of efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at ending the bloody war of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, a delegation from our embassy in Beirut met Mahmud Faqih, Amal official responsible for organization, in Harun Village in Nabatiyah District.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Amal official stressed that the pro-'Arafat forces have been stopped from making any progress in the area east of Sidon and he praised the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the Palestinian camps war.

He said: This move, undertaken on the order of Imam Khomeyni, has had an important and constructive role in improving relations between Lebanese and Palestinians.

PLO's Al-Wazir Calls for Dialogue With Amal

PM231021 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu Jihad: We Are Interested in Dialogue and Implementation of the Initiative To End the War"]

[Excerpt] London, Beirut—The deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, has stated that the recent developments east of Sidon in southern Lebanon are regerettable and reflect the intentions of the other side because the Palestinian fighters have withdrawn from their previous positions and handed over the villages they had reached to the Nasirite Popular Organization headed by Mustafa Sa'd.

In a telephone statement to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* from Tunis, Abu Jihad said that the PLO is eager to see an end to these developments, a restoration of positive dialogue, and an implementation of the 11 September agreement reached in Sidon on the initiative of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri to end the camps war.

Abu Jihad appealed to the Amal Movement leaders and all other influential parties in Lebanon to cooperate, to resort to dialogue, and to urgently try to find a way out because the only side which stands to benefit from what is happening is the Israeli enemy.

Lebanese security sources stated that Amal Movement forces yesterday morning occupied the villages of Baysur and Al-Mharbiyah in a surprise dawn attack, but Palestinian sources emphasized that Popular Liberation Army units, assisted by Palestinian artillery, later regained control of the two villages. [passage omitted]

Amal To Attend Sidon Camps Commission Meetings

NC221221 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] The Amal Movement is ready to attend the meetings of the camps joint higher commission slated to be held in Sidon tomorrow and to fully respond to any efforts that aim to ensure positive implementation of all initiatives. The Amal Movement said it welcomed the decision made by Eng Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, to rearrange the meetings and held the pro-'Arafat gunmen responsible for obstructing the agreement by failing to abide by its provisions.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of the Al-Kharrub region have issued a statement announcing that they do not want the Palestinian gunmen who will withdraw from east of Sidon to deploy in their area. The inhabitants reiterated that they were unwilling to bear the consequences of those acts of excessiveness which the sons of the camps, Sidon, and the mountain themselves had rejected.

Inter-Amal Fighting in Burj al-Barajinah

NC230937 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Oct 87

[text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, clashes are now raging in the Burj al-Barajinah area between the Amal Movement's security personnel, led by Hani 'Izz al-Din, and those loyal to Sa'id Muhanna, Amal's official in Jami' al-'Arab locality who was killed in yesterday's clash with the Movement's security men. The cause of the clashes stems from differences over imposing protection payments in the Burj al-Barajinah area.

Insurance Company Director Kidnapped in Beirut

NC221506 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Gunmen kidnapped Badr al-Fahum, director of the Arab Insurance Company, at 1500 today. The abduction took place in front of the company's premises on Verdun Street [in West Beirut]. The gunmen forced Al-Fahum to enter a white Volkswagen automobile and then took him to an unknown destination.

Afghanistan

Text of Najibullah Report to PDPA Conference

LD211741 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1537 GMT 18 Oct 87

[PDPA Central Committee Report presented by Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on 18 October at second nationwide PDPA conference in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] Comrade representatives, comrade combatants, esteemed guests, representatives of the patriotic and peaceloving organizations:

Today is the second time party activists have gathered together in a worthy conference since the April Revolution in order to collectively solve the party's most important duties and the key issues in the development and evolution of Afghan society. The PDPA Central Committee is submitting a report on the party's periodical tasks aimed at intensifying the national reconciliation policy and a number of changes in the PDPA's program of action for assessment and discussion by the esteemed representatives and via them to all party members. Other issues included in the agenda of our conference, however important, are ultimately related to resolving this important issue.

Fate has given the Afghan people a difficult choice: Either the national reconciliation policy is implemented or the bloodshed and fratricide will continue. There is no other choice. The PDPA, as an experienced vanguard of the Afghan people, should give a complete answer to this vital question. Having considered this serious and firm truth, we embark on analyzing the traveled path and we will establish new goals.

Since the first steps of our heroic party, since the first program, the policy, the struggle for peace and prosperity, and for the advancement of the people have been and will continue to be its directing star.

A historical assessment of priority interests for national peace has been transformed into our ideology and banner. Our people, as well as the sound opposition forces, understand more than ever that resolving the acute issues by force and with arms is not only a criminal and immoral action, but that it is meaningless, impossible, and absurd. The only path is the path of national unity and constructive dialogue. We will be successful in defending the peaceful direction. There is no other alternative.

In the PDPA's program of action, the April Revolution has been defined as a national and democratic revolution, a revolution which ensures national advacement through the implementation of vast transformations with a democratic character.

Our revolution is not a proletarian or a socialist revolution. I stress, comrades, that our revolution is not a proletarian or a socialist revolution. Some people ask us to determine the revolution and its new political system as a phenomenon with popular character. Have we lost our revolutionary and categorical approach? Have we retreated from our previous stands? With complete assurance we declare, no. We have not lost our principled stands and we will not surrender them. The real and revolutionary party has acted on a scientific basis and foundation, and considers the objective fact comprehensively. It avoids hastiness and leaping from the evolutionary stages. The people have an a saying: A good gardener does not pick unripened fruit from the tree.

Knowledge of the general and popular character of the revolution led the party to the conclusion that, in the Afghan society, new plans and proposals must emanate from the various social forces, that is, workers, farmers, intellectuals, national enterpreneurs, clergy, and other social groups. The duty of a revolutionary vanguard dictates that he should not refuse initiatives but support them with contemplation and constructiveness. The following conclusion can be drawn from this. At the present stage, the unification of the people around vitally important issues is not only possible, but also objectively necessary.

Those who try to destroy our revolution against the interests of our people make a grave mistake. Achieving overall development for the sake of the people has been implemented through unity and solidarity. While there is a common interest in peace among the various social groups, this is, particularly [words indistinct]. Therefore, we reach the important scientific conclusion that our revolution and our policy of national reconciliation is the result of our daily life and has a popular characteristic because our party and our revolutionary sovereignty are its guide and organizer.

The experience we have gone through has profoundly enriched our understanding of the contents and goals of our democratic and national revolution. The time has come to consider past experience, objectively and critically, as an asset of the whole party. Great Lenin averred that parties cannot be judged by the words they say, but through the acts they carry out. We put the question in this way: What are our achievements over the past 5 years since the first all-party conference?

Starting from this, the achievements of the past 5 years are: the consistent development of the April Revolution; the stabilization of its achievements; the life and the activities of our party. All of these represent considerable and credible power. Dark voices repeatedly forecast the death of our revolution and our party. Despite this, our revolution is alive and is becoming widespread. Our party struggles and develops. The party was able to convene the 18th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee and the present all-party conference, and (?should achieve broad results).

The first really democratic elections have been held in a considerable part of Afghan territory and truly popular organs of state power and administration have been created. This phenomenon did not exist 5 years ago. An extensive search for peace and the wish for an immediate end to the war and the fratricide led us to declare the policy of national reconciliation and to implement it. None of the party's decisions were welcomed as much as the policy of national reconciliation. The people themselves are implementing this policy. The local people have determined past achievements.

While working under the hard conditions of war, the economic indices of our toiling people are higher than those from before the revolution. This is the greatest victory of the new order and it is indicative of the progressive characteristic and its [word indistinct] capability. The people have won the right to work, the right to freedom, and the right to education and health assistance. These rights will be enshrined in golden letters in the new constitution. New schools and hospitals, new homes, and a successful struggle to eliminate illiteracy, which [words indistinct] become the property of our country. These are among the characteristics of our social policy which, despite the war and [word indistinct] 60 percent of the budget has been spent in defense of the country, have been achieved.

In past years our Armed Forces have grown and strengthened considerably. They are carrying out combat operations in which they crush extremist bands and seize the convoys carrying their weapons. They successfully eliminate the arms stores and the military centers of the extremists. Following the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, when the extremists are trying to utilize the unilateral cease-fire for their own interests, the tasks of our Armed Forces have become important more than ever before.

The international prestige of our country and party has been enhanced. Practical steps to preserve Afghanistan as an independent, nonaligned, and nationally sovereign country have been taken. Afghan-Soviet friendship is being broadened and expanded. Internationalist thinking and the revolutionary solidarity of the progressive forces of the world and of the DRA have strengthened and are creatively developing. This is also one of the most important results of our foreign policy over the past years. Today, on behalf of the party and on behalf of this conference, we express our gratitude to the workers, farmers, artisans, businessmen, cherished intellectuals, esteemed clergy and elders, brave troops, officers, and generals, noble youths, and true and patriotic members of the party.

Thank you, dear compatriots, real patriots, for your work and heroism, for your wisdom, tolerance, and forbearance. Let our gratitude echo from the peaks of the Hindu Kush and reach every home and dwelling. Let this gratitude make the weak strong and the strong invincible. We walk the path of revolution, peace, and progress and we have to succeed. Today, those who defended the country, the revolution, and our party with their bodies do not exist among your ranks. But real party members never die. Their heroic deeds will remain alive for centuries and centuries. Let us now honor them by standing in silence for 1 minute.

Comrades, let us remember how the policy of national reconciliation came in to existence and how it has been nurtured. How did the PDPA take this historic step? How did it take the political initiative which has no equivalent in the world's national liberation movement? Through fundamental analyses of the post-revolution years, which were carried out critically after the 18th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, we became sure that none of the vital issues of Afghan society, in spite of all the efforts and sacrifices, have so far been solved militarily. As is known, for the first time we expressed our views regarding a new way—an alternative to the war—in the 18th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. Nevertheless, the PDPA did not take steps to implement the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee plenum.

There were reasons for this: a lack of consistency; (?keeping) principles out of the party; the gap between words and action; ignorance with regard to the general interests; selfish personal goals; administrative arrogance; and the negative influences which have (?been obvious) in the party. In the course of the 18th plenum, and in particular in the 19th Central Committee plenum, the party for the first time highlighted the fundamental shortcomings in its work, and their reasons. However, criticism by itself, no matter how constructive, is only half the work. So far no one has succeeded in obtaining political credibility through punishment. It is necessary to develop a constructive theory on reaching peace and security in a [words indistinct] of theory and practice, taking into full account the specific characteristics of Afghanistan.

In detailed and comprehensive discussions and consultations with members of the Central Committee, the ulema, and the elders, the program of national peace, which could be implemented through reconciliation, was pursued step by step. The 20th plenum, and in particular the extraordinary Central Committee plenum, played a unique role in organizing, preparing, and specifying the draft of this realistic policy. The policy of national reconciliation, as we perceive it, paints the historical experience of society's progressive and humanitarian growth and highlights the [word indistinct] of human interest in the negation of war as a means of solving political questions. The policy of national reconciliation constitutes the most important aims of the PDPA toward solving national problems based on new political thinking and new philosophy, which considers man's right to life and the safeguarding of world peace as its highest values.

The policy of national reconciliation [words indistinct] is: a realistic and all-round assessment of the situation in the country; the solution of present and future problems of Afghanistan, taking into consideration the priorities of the common interests of the people over limited class, party, ideological, traditional, tribal, and clan interests; efforts aimed at a political solution to accumulated problems; unprejudiced cooperation with other political forces who are struggling in a practical way against the undeclared war; the sincere and reciprocal observance of the conditions of cease-fire; participation in peaceful dialogue and a search for ways of national accord; extending assistance to returnees; and defending the peaceful life of the compatriots.

Convincing proof of such activity by the PDPA and the popular sovereignty is not contrary to this policy and they are making a courageous struggle toward the salvation of the homeland and its people. In other words, national reconciliation is an answer to the question of how the fratricidal war should be ended and how to prevent self-destruction.

Ten months have passed since the extraordinary Central Committee plenum. To be precise, 274 days and nights have elapsed. This is a very short period in history, but for our party, which is heading the new political policy, it is not a short time. We have plowed and cultivated the land and now we are witnessing its first fruits. About 1,600 villages have voluntarily joined the popular power, and we now have approximately 8,500 villages in our control. Nimruz And Farah Provinces have been liberated from the existence of extremists. The people there have declared their land as a zone of peace. A peace zone in Hazarajat is being created. This region includes 5 provinces, 38 districts, and more than 7,000 villages. A good future is envisaged for Herat and Qandahar. So far 90,000 people have returned from camps in Pakistan and Iran. This figure could be several times larger, because 80 percent of the refugees are inclined to return to their homes.

Regrettably, Islamabad and Iran create obstacles to the just solution of these problems. Thirty thousand people belonging to 174 armed groups have joined the popular sovereignty, and with them more than 100,000 people returned to a peaceful life. However, no figures can reflect the spirit of the people and their confidence and hope in the approaching victory of peace and security. The people are building, bringing infertile lands under cultivation, reviving canals. About 6,000 pieces of land have been allocated as residential areas, 900 [word indistinct] houses are under construction in Herat. These are the bright examples of peace. The first phase of national reconciliation has been travelled. In the course of this phase the party put forward the idea of national reconciliaton, and is now active as its struggling organizer and executor.

The policy of national reconciliation is in the process of being changed to reality. It is taking a specific shape. It is beginning to form the political practice of the people of Afghanistan. Sometimes we hear that the situation in the country has become complicated. Yes, the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation has intensified contradictions. When we were sitting idle everything seemed quiet. Now we have begun to act and have taken the initiative. We have disturbed the enemy nests like nests of wasps. This demonstrates our strength and now we have achieved gains that we did not achieve a year ago. And in most areas we have achieved victories that we could not have achieved in past years.

Today, after gaining positive experience, it is clearer to us that the implementation of the new policy was more complicated than we originally expected. We could have achieved more in all directions of the reconciliation with our endeavors in the past 10 months. It must be mentioned that the policy of national reconciliation has not yet become irreversible. It has not yet gained an irreversible characteristic. Here everything depends on us. The enemies have intensified their military and political interference. Washington and its obedient servants are broadening their aggression against the people of Afghanistan. Our country has become the target of the policy of state terrorism practiced by the Reagan administration. The extremists use all possible means to undermine the policy of national reconciliation.

Negative phenomenon inside the PDPA and the state machinery have also become a negative factor in the implementation of the new policy. The difficulties in developing the new policy among a number of members of the leadership personnel and party members have brought about panic and pessimism. This can be noticed among a number of people who are not ready to compromise with the opposition for fear of losing their position, and also among those who support a policy of quick surrender to the opposition. Despite the fact that the number of such people are not that many, our enemies are actively destroying unity, and encouraging the struggle for nepotism, factionalism, and sometimes even revenge.

In this conference the policy of national reconciliation is to be marked within the framework of its second stage. The issues to be included in this program are: to achieve the formation of the leftist democratic unity; to organize a mechanism for cooperation with various groups; to create state and coalition administrative organs; to strengthen posts offered by us to the opposite side in the coalition; to assess the observation of the cease-fire up to 15 January, 1988; to ratify the constitution; to resolve the issues of naming the state, and the elections of the president and the national assembly; to prepare for the convening of the second party congress and the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution; to take measures to explain the content of the documents of the all-party conference and their effect on the people and party members; to plan help for and facilitate the early return of refugees; to dispatch messages about the conference to fraternal parties and friendly countries; and to intensify our propaganda abroad. To realize this

program and the maximum utilization of the state and party forces we need to enhance the process of national reconciliation in all dimensions.

What is meant by enhancement? A resolute and uncompromising struggle against the enemies of national peace and accord; renewing the work methods and their adaptation to the new conditions; immediate, quick, and final solutions to issues; enhancing the effectiveness of all peaceful measures and the boldly dissipating the idea of national reconciliation throughout the country; attracting all people toward us, making neutral people active, educating and defending the people who have separated themselves from the extremists and joined a peaceful life; developing the economy, solving social duties, and comprehensively increasing production.

When we speak about enhancement, it is everywhere that the Central Committee forces us into accelaration: We are not used to working at such a speed. But this enhancement will continue because a lot of time has been lost. Therefore, enhancing the process of national reconciliation is the special key for solving all Afghanistan's current problems. Time, for us, has increased in value. Every day and every hour should contain new thoughts and more specific work. We should carry out great works in the minimum time. Speaking precisely, we should attain this. National reconciliation is to be converted into an irreversible process. Praise to those who do not lag behind. [applause]

Comrades, in this conference we specify the tasks, their implementation within a multiparty system and a coalition administration to be applied in the future. A multiparty system and coalition administration: These are new concepts for all of us and require collective consultation and comprehensive expression. Revolutionary parties not only teach others, they also learn from others. Bearing this in mind, stagnation causes irreparable consequences. Therefore we must learn a new work method and a way of reaching peace as quickly as possible, working with our allies, under conditions of a coalition government. We begin from the political system of Afghan society to which the process of national reconciliation introduces considerable changes. First of all we talk about a multiparty system and see what it means:

It means that all the existing parties and organizations or those being formed, can operate freely and openly. However, this is provided that these parties and organizations work for the prosperity of the people and struggle for national peace. Popular power strengthened this matter through a special law. The process of joining efforts and uniting with the left-democratic parties was actively begun after the 18th Central Committee plenum. [word indistinct] the members of the JAZA, SAKJA, and SPAZA [not further identified] who collectively came to the 19th plenum, were accepted in the PDPA. PDPA membership increased by 1,000 from these organizations; 141 members of those organizations obtained leadership positions.

Cooperation protocols with the SEZA [Revolutionary Workers Organization of Afghanistan, Sazman-e Enqelabi-e Zahmatkashan-e Afghanistan] and SAZA [Workers Organization of Afghanistan, Sazman-e Zahmatkhashan-e Afghanistan] have been signed. In this way we have obtained many experiences in joint work. Patriotic religious leaders in Afghanistan have shown readiness to create an Islamic party in Afghanistan. We welcome the creation of such a party. In connection with this matter, we are ready to reconsider the bill to elect staff to such ministries will be given to the Council of Ulema and religious leaders after consulting and understanding with the Islamic Committees and the opposition. We hope that the respected ulema and the noble religious leaders, as intermediaries, will work everywhere with the opposition forces in the cause of reconciliation.

The need for the active and direct participation of peasants and workers in political life has come into being. A peasant party could unite agricultural farmers and those who have obtained lands as well as members of the cooperatives. A place will also be found for a PDPA that can reflect the interests of the national patriotic bourgeoise in the political structure of society. We will fully assist the creation of a united democratic left among the parties. By participating in this the PDPA will not lose its identity and will remain as a recognized national force. The leaders of Afghanistan are actively working in search of a compromise with the political forces, including the right wing. Contact with some of the representatives of the seven-party alliance is also broadening and expanding. It is necessary to consider this correction to a multiparty system.

The multiparty system which is based on the principles of national reconciliation, can remove the political isolation of our party which alone is engaged in struggle against imperialism and counterrevolution. Obviously, the unity of the new political forces can be realized in the framework of the National Front. However, is this social and political organization—the National Front—managing to come out as an effective force, playing an important role in the process of national reconciliation, and having the required influence on Afghan society? Unfortunately not yet.

The National Front's activities are, to a large extent, still characterized by formalism and only the big cities are under its influence. Only 20 percent of the National Front councils are active in the villages. This organization, which is an inseparable part of the PDPA, has been regarded as deprived of political independence, and this has been one of the major reasons for its weak work. No improvement has been noticed in its work after the convocation of the second national front congress. It is high time that new approaches should be sought in its activities. The national front should cover all peace-loving and progressive forces of the country including the opposition on the basis of a single antiwar movement.

Coalition: It emanates from a multiparty system. What is the meaning of this word? It means that the power will not remain with one party, but will be shared with several parties who have united in accordance with a joint policy of national [word indistinct] and the construction of an Afghanistan with national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonaligned status. The coalition could unite all forces who seek and maintain peace and security. Life has shown that the political creativeness of the people, who do not want to continue war, bring about various forms of the coalition administration in practive. This coalition will be realized from top to bottom. What will the forms of this coalition be?

The election of representatives of the opposition in the local councils. So far 1149 persons have been elected in these organs.

The election of over 6,000 former opposition and returnees as members of the national reconciliation commissions.

The election of representatives of the armed groups to compose the village, district, and subdistrict councils.

The election of the former heads of the armed opposition groups to the leaderships of districts, subdistricts, and provinces. At this moment, roughly 361 of these people work as chairmen and secretaries of the executive committees at various levels.

Inviting ministers of previous regimes to work in government leadership posts.

The convocation of a peace assembly in which decisions will be made about peace and security on the basis of compromise.

Joining villages and districts to the government with their previous administrative structure, while avoiding infringements on the government's sovereignty.

The oppostion is returning more quickly to our cities. At the first Kochi assembly, and in the first Hazara assembly, 100 oppostion men and over 400 oppostion men respectively, both of which formed over half of the participants, took part. Such a situation did not exist a year ago. This process has begun. It is gaining strength and has a bright future. This future is national reconciliation. The practice of appointing nonparty governors in Herat, Helmand, Kandahar, and Baghlan will bring about good results. This policy, at all levels, must be resolutely followed. It is our duty and my purpose in the Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the Council of Ministers, to unify as soon as possible the collected experience and to regulate the work of the organs of the coalition sovereignty.

We should not wait for the oppostion's approach to us, we should not think in such a way that reconciliation and coalition will merely begin at a time when the leaders of the seven-party alliance and Zahir Shah return to Kabul. We have proposed a list of major posts to them. We have contacted and will continue to contact the second grade commanders of the opposition as well. Thousands of the chiefs, clergymen, and intellectuals have given a positive reply to our invitation. We should realize reconciliation and coalition in the land of Afghanistan. [applause] We began the formation of the coalition on the most fundamental foundation—the complete support of the people. This is the decisive guarantor of the vitality of our new political system.

Comrades, undoubtedly our party plays the fundamental role in the creation of the coalition, but the reaching of this goal should pass through at least two phases. The present phase, that is, the struggle for putting into action the policy of national reconciliation, is continuing. The second phase will be maintaining its irreversibility. We need to identify the tasks and essence of every phase. This is an important and principled matter. At the present stage, the support of the people for the policy of national reconciliation, which has been put forward by the PDPA and is being realized, established the guiding and leading role of the party. In the present phase, the struggle for reconciliation is continuing.

At a later phase, that is, the direct realization of the coalition administration, the PDPA should not lose its leading role in all levels of the state sovereignty. In order to do this, it is necessary to start preparing for that time. [applause] I emphasize in particular that the slogans of the April national-democratic revolution will be preserved. However, in these two phases the party should support whatever contributes toward the cessation of the war and achieving national peace.

Under the conditions of a multiparty system and coalition, our party should re-obtain high authority and credibility. Our relations with the masses should be adjusted; not on the basis of commands, but on the basis of their acceptance. The party should help the people so that in all areas of activity they will render discipline and loyalty to the aspirations of the revolution and make a correct political choice.

Without a doubt the new political system should be based on law in a firm and reliable manner. Therefore the most important aspect of the new political system is its legal character and the completion of passing from temporary norms and bills that have been enshrined in the DRA Basic Principles to permanent norms and bills in the new constitution. The process of asking people's views on the draft constitution will be concluded soon. This campaign has acquired a genuine popular character. About 2 million of our compatriots have taken part in the referendum. About 15,000 proposals and critical points of views have been received by the Commission for the Draft Constitution. The new constitution has been built on the firm foundation of theory and practice.

In the Politburo's opinion, a positive effect over the further development of our society and a guarantee of its steadfastness have been embodied in this effort. It is within the legal norms that we assess two important political issues at our conference, that is, the draft of the PDPA's new program of action and the draft of the new DRA constitution, which create a legal platform for the national reconciliation policy.

The opposition knows very well that while they are involved with conversation and slogans, we are involved with a constitution that is being supported by the influential figures of the country. At present we can say with full confidence that if you want to know our policy then you should study our constitution. Our constitution really is the people's constitution; it is peace, prosperity, and advancement. [applause] After the conclusion and completion of the draft, the Grand Assembly will be held in early Qaws [month beginning 22 November] in connection with the approval of the constitution and election of the president. The consolidation of the PDPA and restructuring of its work in accordance with the new demands is a complicated and tangled process. Therefore, the decision of the party to reserve the post of the presidency for itself, is logical.

Under the conditions of national reconciliation and the coalition government, the president could rely on the party and state, which certainly will strengthen the credibility of the coalition power and stabilize the PDPA's stands in the society. [applause] I wanted to ask the comrade representatives what you think in this regard. Your applause shows that you think it good. [applause] The issue of the development of national relations has always been and will continue to be at the forefront of the party's attention. These issues will acquire special importance in light of the struggle for national reconciliation. All nationalities, tribes, and clans in the country are interested parties to peace. There will never be peace in the country without their efforts.

Therefore, we support officially recognizing and paying respect to the historical part of the noble Pashtun tribes in the struggle for the protection of the country's independence, along with officially recognizing the equal right of all nationalities, tribes, and clans in the cause of peace and participation in the affairs of the state. [applause] Respect for their special interests should be guaranteed and should be observed in practice without deviation. The issue of creating local self-determination for Hazaras, Nurestanies, and others, along with increased government aid to the remote areas, is being discussed. All these issues are correct and should be resolved for all tribes, nationalities, and clans.

We draw the attention of the comrades to the fact that we should not rush into this and should not commit a single mistake. The new political system of Afghanistan will be transformed into a historical gain for the revolution, party, and people. This political system is, to a higher degree, in conformity with our society's structure, its future development, and the important task of establishing and consolidating national peace in the country. The people will not forget the fact that during the transformation of Afghanistan, our party was the only party that found a political path to escape the deadlock of war and bloodshed and has established a true popular, social, and political system of peace and creativity. [applause]

Esteemed representtives, in order to implement the national reconciliation policy and end the war, a powerful and strong party is needed. [applause] To create coalition forms of administration, including a coalition government, a worthy party is necessary. In order to establish unity among the parties, a cohesive party is needed. These tasks are being discussed by our conference; only a powerful, authoritative, and cohesive PDPA is capable of resolving them. [applause] Our collective wisdom should be drawn to consoliding order in our party home. I repeat, comrades, that our collective wisdom, our consciences, our hearts, our feelings, our sentiments, everything should be drawn toward consolidating order in our party home. [applause]

We should make this home clean and bright. We should not only be capable of offense but at the same time we should learn the art of retreat. In order to moblize the new forces, we should go forward again to capture the envisaged peaks. Iron discipline, obedience to the center, and loyalty to the gains of the April revolution should always rule inside the party. The party should emerge more experienced and further consolidated following its tests, including political, military, and economic tests. Party members have several times discussed the need to make changes to the current PDPA rules. These rules are presently behind the times and are not completely responsive to the needs of the party structure at the present stage.

These rules are full of examples of harshness. It is not necessary for us to stand in one place, but, without assessing our forces, we should not hurry forward. Therefore, it is necessary, in full and complete conformity, to fully explain the new situation resulting from the national reconciliation process to all party members. The rules should assist in restructuring all party bodies, from primary party organizations up to the highest leading bodies. The Central Committee therefore presents the new draft PDPA rules—approved by the representatives during discussion—to the national conference. In the interval between two conferences, the leading, organizing, and controlling role of the Central Committee and its Secretariat has constantly improved in putting party policy into practice.

In the 5 years since the first PDPA conference, a total of 13 Central Committee plenums have now been held. Since the 18th plenum, these plenums have become more efficient, more collective, and more democratic. We remember how the 19th, 20th, the extraordinary plenums, and the June plenum were held. On the eve of these plenums the majority of the Central Committee

members sent their views and proposals, which were afterwards used in the party documents. During the extraordinary plenum we organized (?collective) work for broader consultation with Central Committee members; 115 participants in the plenum expressed their views. Expanding the Central Committee's composition at the 19th and 20th plenums became a great event of the party's internal life and an important step toward strengthening it.

Comrades, you are aware that before these plenums the Central Committee was composed of officials residing in Kabul and two workers and two secretaries of the provincial party committees. It is necessary to frankly state that the Politburo, by doubling the Central Committee's quantitative composition, failed to provide strict control over the selection of new candidates. As a result a number of mistakes were made, and inevitably a number of party members were expelled from the Central Committee. It should be noted that Central Committee members are the party's golden reserve. Membership in the Central Committee is a sign of trust and high esteem. Central Committee members have historical responsibilities toward the destiny of the party and the homeland. History will judge us seriously, justly, cruelly, and strictly. There is one indicator in the life of the party that is the clear and convincing manifestation of the party's credibility and its ability to live among the people—the growth of the party ranks.

Senior party members will remember when there were only a few party members. In 1967-68 the number of party members was only 515; in 1977-78 it was 15,000; in 1982-83 it was almost 90,000; and now there are 185,000 members. It is worth mentioning that the greatest increase in party ranks was in 1986-87, following the announcement of the national reconciliation policy, when about 40,000 full and candidate members were accepted into the PDPA. In the period of time between the PDPA conferences, the party organizations of Kabul city, and Badghis, Jowzjan, Takhar, Helmand, Fariab, Kabol, Herat, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, and Konduz Provinces have quadrupled their (?membership), while Badghiz Province has increased its membership seven-fold.

The credibility of the party is the credibility of every party member. The manner in which a party member works, lives, and behaves in front of his colleagues and junior members all constitute the credibility of the party. Most party members keep the banner of the party aloft. However, there are some who, by their breach of party discipline, idleness, arrogance, collecting riches, and addiction to alcohol and narcotics, have tarnished these efforts.

The organizational departments, the party control commissions, and the provincial party committees should, within (?2) months, report to the party primary organizations on the question of membership of those who are engaged in factionalism and who have not for a long time attended party meetings, who do not pay membership dues, and who should be [word indistinct] from the PDPA. Such persons are [word indistinct] in the party and it is necessary to purge the party of them. The party committees are commissioned to protect the honor of the party, not their personal position. [applause]

The PDPA's position on the new conditions of coalition and the multiparty system is not a simple one. Other parties also woo Afghans to their ranks. In this regard the question is: What should the PDPA's size be? A mechanical and numerical approach cannot exist in this area. The party will grow. It will renew and consolidate its ranks. The PDPA is presently one of the largest parties in the countries of the region. The PDPA should continue to be like that so it can implement its policy in practice through the strength of party members.

Because of our conference, acceptance into the party has changed to become a political event having greater importance. Today we can report to the representatives that by 12 October, more than 6,000 applications were received by the party committees and that 4,600 sincere and consistent supporters of the policy of national reconciliation have recently been accepted into the PDPA's ranks. This is not only support for the policy of national reconciliation but is also a shattering blow to those who are trying to sow the seeds of hostility, doubt, and mistrust in our ranks. Let the few of those who are stained be gone from us, and let the hundreds of thousands of those who are pure (?remain).

Every house has a foundation. The party primary organizations are the party's foundation. The party's power and its combat capability depend on how the party primary organizations live and are engaged in their affairs, how their secretaries and activists act, and whether they are credible people or not.

The party expands and strengthens its links with the masses through the primary party organizations. We remember that the first 18 party wards were established in 1962-63. In 1982-83 the number of primary party organizations was 2,273, and it is now 6,160. But the most fundamental thing is that the network of party primary organizations has engulfed all the country. The number of primary party organizations in the border regions in the period between the two conferences increased from 443 to 1,331. In the villages 5 years ago, the number of party primary organizations was few while at present, their number has reached 1,160. However, it is necessary to give greater objectiveness to expansion of the party organization network.

Life in the primary party organizations and party committees has become more fruitful. They are now more fully reflecting the basic content of the life of society—the policy of national reconciliation. This fact was clearly reflected in the party sessions held in the month of Hamal [month beginning 22 March], sessions highly assessed by the Politburo. This was an unforgettable

time. The Central Committee, for the first time in the the whole history of the party, held consultations with party members in a democratic atmosphere. The sessions were militant, intense, critical, and specific. The people became convinced that a force exists in the country that is able to direct the policy of national reconciliation: This force is the PDPA. Party members' self-awareness was developed in these sessions. The party sessions became a great school for Central Committee members, leadership officials, and all the Afghan leadership.

Party members, with a united view, supported the party's policy based on expanding national reconciliation, and approved the Central Committee Politburo's practical actions. Following these sessions, the power of the Politburo was increased and we carried out more resolute and serious actions. Following the June plenum we again returned to this tested method. Sessions and conferences were held under a single agenda on the results of the June Central Committee Plenum, and selection of delegates to the national party conference was made. Important discussions were again carried out by party members in all party primary organizations on the course of realizating the national reconciliation policy. For the first time in 5 and 1/2 years, party conferences were held in all areas, subdistricts, districts, cities, and provinces. One out of every seven party members participated in these conferences, which were held in an atmosphere of openness, democracy, enthusiasm, and high progress. They reaffirmed the loyalty of party members to the policy of national reconciliation and their support for the practical efforts of the Central Committee and its Politburo. This was an immense achievement and a major success, one of which we can be proud.

However, such a state of affairs was not and is not to the liking of some people. It seems that they are not pleased with it. For instance, the healthy and principled forces of Kabul city's Seventh Ward and of Jawzjan Province were confronted with open factionalism and groupings while convening conferences. The Central Committee has no secrets from the party and party members. The Central Committee for its part also expects that party members will have no secrets from the Central Committee. The results of the convocation of party sessions and conferences and their analysis make us reach the following conclusions:

1) It is necessary that any decision, particularly political decisions and decisions dealing with the masses, be properly organized. Superficial preparations for the conference by officials of the party committees was observed in the party committees of the Kabul city's First and Second Wards and also in Nagrahar and Herat Provinces. It is necessary that some party committees be strengthened by sincere and responsible party members.

2) Some immature party members have interpreted our achievements such as democratism and openness as a freedom for demagogery and self-interest. They have violated the principle of democratic centralism and are acting on the basis of nepotism, clan and tribal behavior, and self- and group interests. They state that since someone is not from their tribe nor one of their relatives, supporters, or allies, they do not want to elect him. It is necessary to note that selecting delegates to the nationwide party conference, and I state this clearly, has taken place in a strict and serious atmosphere. One can be happy about the fact that most comrades remember what they have been told [words indistinct].

Due to known reasons, electing secretaries of the party organizations, party committees, and the activisits of social organizations has not yet taken place in our party. Now, for the first time, party members have found the opportunity to assess this or that leader and official and to elect them to their present posts. If we ignore some instances of groupings and subjectivism, then all our officials have been supported by the people and party ranks. Only five people were not elected. This, too, is a great achievement. This small (?example) among the 704 delegates is something that cannot be (?discounted). Is this not a victory? It is a great victory. [applause]

The plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was held yesterday [17 October]. The plenum discussed the issues concerning preparations for the nationwide party conference on national reconciliation. The participants in the plenum unanimously approved the agenda, work procedure, and documents of the nationwide conference that will be put before the conference for discussion. The plenum discussed organizational issues.

Comrades Daud Razmiar, Hakim Mangal, Muhammadullah Safi, Sarferaz Muhammad, Sher Bahadur, 'Abdulhamid Muhtat, 'Abdul Habib, Sayyed Nastrotallah, Muhammad Wali, and Hashmatullah Kayhani were elected as full members of the PDPA Central Committee. Comrades Husayn Helali, Kabir Ranjbar, and Abdurrahim were elected as PDPA Central Committee candidate members. Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani and Niyaz Muhammad Muhmand, candidate members of the Politburo, and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee were elected as full members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. Comrade Haydar Mas'ud, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, was elected as full member of the the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. Comrade Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the DRA Armed Forces General Staff, was elected as a candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. Comrade Daud Razmier, head of the PDPA Central Committee's Economic Department, was elected as secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. The plenum authorized the secretaries of the Kandahar, Herat, Nangrahar, and Balkh provincial party committees to become secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee. [applause]

The plenum expelled Mahmud Barialay—who had earlier been expelled from the PDPA Central Committee Politburo—and also Emtiaz Hasan, Muhammad Yasin

Sadeqi, 'Abdulghafar Lakanwal, Anahita Ratebzad, Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, Feda Muhammad Dehneshin, Gul Aqa, Muhammad Faruq, and Muhammad Nasim Joya from full membership of the Central Committee, and 'Abdul Aziz Majidzada, (?Ne'matullah), Samad Poya, and Khaoir Kargar from candidate membership of the Central Committee. The plenum relieved Ebrahim Rosta and Engineer Aziz—who had earlier been expelled from the PDPA ranks—from the Central Committee Auditing Commission. The plenum was held in an atmosphere of complete unity and revolutionary discipline.

On measures concerning improvements in cadre policy:

In the coming 3 or 4 months we will talk to all leading cadres in the party. Each one will have to pass professional and political examinations. This will enable us to consolidate the upper circle and to say farewell to those who were accidently included among the high-level cadres.

In the future, candidates to provincial or national leadership posts will be approved in accordance with the recommendation of the party organizations. Openness will be ensured both during a cadre's promotion to or expulsion from duty. Separate departments will be created in the Central Committee and in provincial party committees to work with cadres. In the Central Committee, the responsibility of cadres will be the duty of the general secretary, and in the provinces the duty of the secretary of the provincial party committee. The party will refrain from the incorrect practice of transferring idle leading officials from one post to another. After dismissal from duty, only one way exists, and that is the road to a profession or ordinary work. A policy based on establishing a balance in all spheres everywhere—that is in the home, at work, and during visits abroad—will be followed.

Views on the method of party work:

The duty to firmly continue restructuring the party and political activities lies ahead of us. Harmful past traditions such as stagnation, dependence on instructions from above, declaration of slogans, and lack of principledness and control can still be seen. For instance, due to these reasons, realizing the June Central Committee plenum resolutions has not acquired the necessary pace in provinces, districts, and villages. In our view it is essential that attention be paid to simplifying complex approaches toward solving tasks. In the new conditions, when political methods acquire priority, it is necessary to comprehensively assess the situation, to accurately plan the work, to envision their consequences, and to achieve specific results.

What does complex approach mean? To ensure the unity of political, organizational, economic, and military work at all levels; a profound coordination of activities of all social organizations and creative unions by the party; the unification of efforts of all educational centers, that is, educational institutes, the organization of the vanguards of the DYOA, the Army, the mass media, and cultural and physical institutes. All affairs are to be conducted according to the maxim: less, but more complex. And they are to be carried out with real and final results. The ability to solve the task of reconciliation as a complex is one of the goals of reconstruction. The role of party secretaries in provinces, cities and districts, villages and factories, is to act as coordinators; and the role increases tremendously. It should be noted that secretaries of the PDPA provincial committees are currently the first people in the provinces.

Comrades, all of us know how much damage is caused by the bureaucratic and red-tape style of leadership. Some officials have learned to convert government duties into office duties and office duties into government duties. They think that increased party organizational work means an increase in the quantity of paper and the speed of its circulation. It must regretfully be said that red tape has engulfed government offices from top to bottom. A large number of officials who hold government positions do not have a specific job in the collective of toilers, military units, and other contingents. They do not meet the people. Meetings and gatherings and paperwork consume most of their time.

I would like to remind you that behind this red tape lie hidden idleness, incompetence, and in some cases a lack of interest in the solution of specific issues. Papers have become a cover under which these officials hide themselves, officials who have little conscience and who want to solve problems not fundamentally but as a formality. We must launch a staunch, consistent, and resolute struggle against bureaucratism inside the party and the party apparatus. A party investigation commission and a party control commission are to be set up in order to cope with this misery. It is necessary to inflict severe blows on bureaucratism, red tape, and office work. Because of mistakes made by the Central Committee, cadres have acquired the habit of spending unnecessary time on paperwork rather than on working with people. In our links with people and when receiving them, we always stress our pressing engagements.

In this connection I would like to offer a historic fact of the 11th century: In the 11th century there was an arrangement in which a rope was tied to bells and was extended from the home of the khan to the bazaar. Anyone who wanted to meet the khan tugged on the rope as he walked towards the castle. Thus, it was easier for the people to be received then than it is now. It is necessary for this matter to be organized in such a way that the people are able to meet the leadership immediately and not after waiting a month or so. Members of the Politburo must meet with the people more often. It is necessary that the structure of the party and the party provincial committees—bearing in mind the party's main duty—evolves to organize and execute the policy

of reconciliation. It is also obvious that the commissions, which serve as the national reconciliation policy's working mechanism, have everywhere failed to fulfill our hopes.

In the capital and in the localities, a large number of administrative organizations came into existence. They either repeat and imitate each other or do nothing at all. The party, as a great organizing force, can draw ever more of the masses behind it, provided that we follow up in our struggle against bureaucratism and improve the style, forms, and methods of our work and activities. The style that is necessary for the party today is specificity, usefulness, unity of words and action, selection of work methods, making certain there is a direct connection between the leadership and the party rank and file, consideration for the people's points of view, dependence on the people, and coordination of all social forces' activities.

Comrades, there is a need for consultation on measures concerning future shortcomings in mutual relations between the party and social organizations. You, the DYOA, the Afghan trade unions, and the women's assembly are dutybound to be the loyal assistants of the PDPA and real fighters for the policy of national reconciliation. The Central Committee has given additional attention to these sections of the political system, and it is not a meaningless effort. Behind this rests our great political, material, and moral help, and support.

Revolution and youth are interconnected and inseparable from the point of view of content and conception. For this reason, the PDPA sees the youth of Afghanistan as active participants in and the heirs to the revolutionary renovation of the country. They are educated not by advice, but through work self-confidence. They are entrusted with major tasks, for example, recruitment in the border brigades, construction of new buildings, the campaign against illiteracy, and so on. However, great confidence requires great responsibility, and we cannot ignore the fact that a large section of young people are dominated by a lack of social conscience, a lack of interest in army service and in working in remote provinces.

The DYOA is not sufficiently expanding, particularly, in agricultural localities, villages, and cities. In a number of large collectives only a few youth are DYOA members. Control of the behavior and deeds of the youth by the cells of the DYOA and by administrations in schools, technical schools, and higher education institutions is poor. Consequently, a large number of youths are influenced by enemy propaganda and become alienated from the revolution. The DYOA Central Committee and young people in general can have a greater share in realizing the policy of reconciliation than before.

We are feeling guilty. How many initiatives, outstanding initiatives, are buried because of the existence of formalism among the youths? How many constructive initiatives have been drowned in futile words and talk? Responsibility for this lies with those comrades who dragged the DYOA into blind imitation of the party and government apparatus with its associated diseases of bureaucratism, endeavor for reporting, regionalism, and administration. Special privileges—such as exemption from national service and the possibility of higher education for the children of leadership officials—have had a negative effect on our youth. The DYOA decided to divert all its efforts to the defense of the country. The DYOA Central Committee easily accepts commitments and easily forgets them.

Young people must be imbued with the fire of revolution and stimulated with enthusiastic struggle and creativeness. Moreover, we should make demands on them—not for writing reports, but for real revolutionary work. [applause] The DYOA must be given more rights to resolve the problems of youth. Creative youths must be promoted to leading positions and the DYOA's primary organization must be broadened in the cities and villages. Recommendations to the DYOA must be promoted by the party; new forms of propaganda and information must be implemented. This is a fundamental task of the PDPA in connection with the work with young people in the circumstances of the acceleration of national reconciliation. I would like to remind you that the party has transferred to the DYOA the responsibility of working with vanguards of youth. There are 160,000 youth pioneers. They are the future of a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. They require more attention.

Many changes have taken place over the past year in the women's movement after the removal of a number of bureaucratic obstructions. In the past year the ranks of the women's movement have doubled. Women strongly feel the sorrow, misery, and destruction caused by the war. We, the party members, are indebted to our mothers and sisters and to all heroic women of Afghanistan. It should be remembered that our country has the only union of mothers of the martyrs of the revolution. What steps should be taken? First of all, we should attract women to actively participate in the social, economic, and cultural life of the country. Our successes in this field are still trivial. Women make up 3.6 percent of the party apparatus and 9 percent of trade union officials. Their position in the national economy is also not good. Women make up 15 percent of officials in communications and 4 percent of transportation workers. Even in the ministries such as education, where women make up 43 percent of the personnel, there are no women in leading positions.

There is no sign of Afghan women delegates at the UN third committee. Why is our esteemed delegate, Roshan, representing women? This injustice has continued for 20 years. A heroic Afghan woman should represent our country in this committee. [applause] The women's clubs, which are the product of indefatigable efforts to seek acceptable and main forms—not only for women, but for working with the people—are worthy of serious attention. It is necessary to commission the daily papers

to allocate at least one page every week for women, and special programs for women's clubs should be organized on television. The Politburo is determined to consider in the near future a special program about the women's movement in our country. Everything that depends on specific measures by the party for setting up work sections among the women will be created in the PDPA Central Committee and the DYOA Central Committee. The creation of such sections was postponed for many years by the previous leadership of the DWOA in order to protect its monopoly of leading the women's movement. Work commissions will be created by the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers to work among women.

Now, about the trade unions: It has become usual to criticize them under various pretexts. The main point is that so far, the Central Committee and the organization section have not helped the Trade Union Central Council to compile a program for their practical activity and to find its special place in progressive changes. In most cases, we deal with the work of trade unions in a formal, superficial manner. Comrade Pordeli must settle accounts with those persons whose activity is contrary to the policy of national reconciliation.

Today, in the conditions of a multiparty system and coalition, our political, organizational, and methodical assistance to the country's social organizations has deep meaning. The main theme is that of increasing our political influence over the broad masses of Afghan society concerning the consolidation of our authority and the determination to uphold our leading role in the growing process of national reconciliation. The attraction of large groups of the people to our sphere of political influence, the indefatigable explanation and preaching of the ideas of national peace to them at every opportunity should constitute the pivot of our work with social organizations. In recognition of their very great importance in the new conditions, a special section is to be created in the Central Committee for the leading social organizations.

Esteemed comrade delegates, the party has not been able so far to transform political training work into a powerful force able to advance the policy of national reconciliation. By giving little value to this aspect of party activity, by simplifying it, and by lack of control, propaganda work is becoming nonsense and full of empty talk. These are the defects in this part of our work. Training in counterpropaganda, patriotic military propaganda, and internationalist work is weak, at best.

Our journalists who are working in the press, radio, and television are not doing their work as the history-writers of the revolution and reconciliation. The leadership of the mass media, as before, is still manned by noncreative and professionally weak persons who do not like their work. In assessing the importance of the press in our less literate society, we attach much importance to the harmful influence of verbal political propaganda. Its main sources are orators, meeting places, and rooms or houses of conversation. We hope that creative trade unions, which are led by Comrades Panjsheri, Jamal, and Bareq Shafi'i, will play a considerable role in speeding up national reconciliation. So far, regrettably, dynamism in the work of these unions is seen only on payday, or on days when delegates are being chosen for trips abroad. Several members of the cultural staff pay more visits abroad than to Parwan or Badakhshan. Instead of going to Parwan or Badakhshan, they go abroad.

What gifts could our poets, writers, and painters give to our people on the threshold of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution? New and great works, or routine [words indistinct]. Follow the example of drama producer, Latif. His films "Sotoh-e Sarbaz" and "Parendaha-e Mohajer" have achieved great success. The Academy of Sciences makes very little use of the country's intellectual potential. Everything in life begins with school. It is here where the life of society is reflected as in a mirror. If we want to improve our society and improve the training of the new generation, it is necessary to strengthen support for schools and teachers. The education and training fields have been damaged as a result of the war. The enemies first of all destroy schools and kill teachers. We need to begin seriously the construction of schools. [applause]

The PDPA Central Committee and the Council of Ministers has assessed the subject of allocating facilities for breakfasts and school uniforms, including shoes. This measure will impose a considerable increase on the family budget. The spirit of new life to a family should enter through school. The teacher is a reliable element in the explanation and realization of the policy of reconciliation. Are Comrades Qayumi and Ghiasi aware of this? We are not quite sure.

Comrades, I would like to turn now to a vital and fundamental issue of our destiny, that is the question of unity. A long, factional struggle, both open and covert has damaged the unity of the party ranks and violated party discipline. What are the reasons for the rise in factionalism, groupings, and compromises? The Central Committee will concentrate seriously on this matter. The issue of party unity and the struggle for national reconciliation comes at the head of all activities of the primary party organizations. The true roots of these manifestations have to be sought out in encouraging the bourgeoisie in their ambition, and other diseases. These elements are confronting the fundamental principles of the party life, ie, democratic centralism. They do not want to submit to unified discipline and are dragged into self-stimulation and hostility. Factionalism in the PDPA has emanated from the weak understanding by party members, especially the leadership cadres, of scientific revolutionary theory. It is only due to this that most members of the party are unable to take firm ideological positions against those who destroy the unity of the party.

In addition to this, from the first days of the existence of the party, factionalism has inflamed an acute struggle for power between different groups and between the leaders of these groups who have not been able to eliminate their group habits. Some of them had groundless reasons for believing in the correctness of their stands. The process of the revolution's evolution in Afghan society has proved their mistakes. The capability for struggle in every organization always depends on the unity of its ranks. This problem is becoming more complex for the PDPA in its desire to speed up the process of national reconciliation, to create the coalition administration and the multiparty system. Meanwhile, the resistance of the internal and external enemies, who constantly negate PDPA unity, is increasing.

How is it possible to overcome these various obstacles and finally succeed? Let us put this another way: Is it possible to overcome several obstacles and achieve victory? Only one answer will suffice and that is the PDPA should maintain its unity not only in words or behind tribunes, but in practice. It should ensure close unification and militancy within its ranks. [applause] It should be declared frankly and forecefully that if the party does not succeed in this matter today, it will lose its leading role in society and will be taken out of the political system. Therefore, the time for purging factionalism and groupings, which for many years have been eating away at the roots of party unity and damaging party discipline, has arrived.

First of all concerning the fatal danger of factionalism: The April 1968 split in the PDPA, which resulted in the creation of the Khalq and Parcham wings, was a very heavy blow at the young party which had arrived in the political arena of the country a short while before. This blow destroyed the political face of the party. Only in June-July 1978 at a PDPA conference, was the unity of the civilian factions maintained. This was a historical victory. Moreover, this unity even rescued both wings of the party from the danger of elimination by the extremist rightest forces. This unity maintained the speedy growth of the authority of the PDPA among the people. The party was able to lead the progressive and democratic forces and bring them to victory in the April Revolution.

At that time the party once again came close to being destroyed when faced with the danger of losing all its gains due to factional differences and antiparty criminal actions. We must say frankly that none of the wings which gained supremacy in the party and state organs was able to correctly utilize power. None of the wings was able to solve independently the problems of defense and development of the country's revolution, strengthening the influence of the party among the masses, which life had put before them. In addition, the strengthening of one wing caused the weakining of the other. This weakened the authority and credibility of the party as a whole. It is here that questions are created for the people! If you are not able to maintain unity among yourselves, how can you maintain order in the country? The fact is that belonging to either wing of the party does not bring honor to any true party member. The Khalqs think of their own wing and the Parchamis of theirs. So who will think about the PDPA? This is not only a simple word. Everyone should answer this question. There is no more place in the party for Khalqs and Parchamis who have damaged our party to the same degree as our declared enemies have done. [applause]

The PDPA is the party of those sharing the same thoughts and the same road; it belongs to the united party members who hold party interest above factional interests. Today we should decisively declare that factionalism, which contradicts the spirit and nature of the action program and charter of the DPPA, must be rejected forever by the party. [applause] Struggle within the party or the revival of any kind of factionalism will be regarded as treachery, like stabbing the party and our friends in the back. Severe punishments will be meted out to pepretrators of such actions. Factional hostility in the PDPA has become a breeding ground for various factionalist phenomena. Evidence of this is the appearance of a new factionalist deviation after the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum and subsequent plenums. These plenums have put forward a policy for developing the party role in the life of society and put before the party the duty of reconstructing the party and its political tasks in view of the national reconciliation.

The decisions of the plenum were supported and affirmed by the healthy forces of the party who are striving to go ahead. However individuals appeared who [words indistinct] saw a danger to their private interests. As usual they are personnel in the party and government apparatus who have come from petty bourgeois strata and who are not interested in any changes. They are the stubborn opponents of the new forms and methods of leadership and work. They say that reconciliation will not succeed. The gains of the revolution have been ignored by them. This is a trivial pretext whereby they want to hide their past actions and carelessness. These are meaningless and irresponsible utterances. Such people are trying to express their disinterest concerning active work and support for the national reconciliation policy in practice by pretending to be interested in the fate of the revolution. They are trying to divide the years after the revolution into various stages. Is this true? I do not think so. [as heard]

To separate our history into stages and adjust them to this and that personality is enough now. These so-called stages will prepare the ground for the various factions. Yes, stages can exist, but only the stages of a national and democratic revolution. Not stages for Parchami [Banner— political party] and not stages for Khalq [Masses— political party]. [applause] There is a close tie between the new hostile and deviationist factionalism and the past stain of nationalism, protectionism, favoritism, and sectionalism. It is obvious to each honest party member

that if the PDPA does not set an example in implementing true equality of rights and furthering the fraternity of the representatives of the nationalities, tribes, and clans of Afghanistan, it will not be able to attract the confidence of the people.

A genuine revolutionary party can be distinguished from nationalist groups by the fact that this party was created on the principles of internationalism and lives and acts according to these principles. Therefore, there is no room for those who have divided the party according to their own rules and those of strangers, based on national and tribal connections, and who create their groups in accordence with these principles. [applause] Such an approach is doubly criminal. On one hand this act is a crime against party unity and, on the other, a crime against the principles of internationalism. At the root of the sectionalism lies the lack of political capability and the idleness of this or that party leader, who live mostly from their past service. These people, who fear losing their warm place, promote their supporters or their relatives to party and state posts. They assume that loyalty to their own is equivalent to loyality to the masses. Despite differences between each faction and side, all of them are united and brought close together by open or veiled disagreement with the implementation of a party policy: national reconciliation.

In what sort of acts is this manifested? Enemies of party unity do not want to understand the vital need for the national reconciliation policy. Furthermore, they sabotage it. The enemies of party unity are ready to hoist the so-called revolutionary banners and throw accusations at the PDPA Central Committee and its leadership, demanding that they waive the party's strategic policy in the interests of counterrevolutionaries. The enemies of party unity stubbornly resist the restructuring of party work. The enemies of party unity spread the spirit of defeat and disillusion as well as rumors and gossip, damaging the authority and credibility of the PDPA leadership. The party's enemies prevent expansion of the revolution's social bases and creation of coalition forms of administration and the multiparty system. The party's enemies create obstacles to the party's policy of remedying mistakes, correcting false calculations and wrong moves, and moving toward fulfilling the social and economic transformation. The party enemies openly assist in efforts to reduce the party's authority and credibility among the people and to strengthen the position of our ideological opposition.

What does this show? It shows that the enemies of party unity are also enemies of reconciliation. They are the people who are striving to create a way to stop the national reconciliation policy. It is their fault if the war and fratricide continue and draw Afghanistan to the edge of annihilation, ending the lives of hundreds or thousands of people.

The party should begin an irreconcilable struggle against all kinds of negative phenomena. A decisive role should be played in this struggle by party organizations at all levels, from the Central Committee to party groups. The adjustments to party rules presented to the conference notably raise the responsibilities of party organizations and committees to consolidate party unity and expand their rights to eliminate factionalist actions. The work by all party control bodies should actually be specified and useful. The party members propose that the party control commission reappear in the form of the party control committee as part of the Central Committee. The need to strengthen this body and enhance its authority has been felt. This proposal is worthy of support and approval. The party sword should be in clean and strong hands. [applause]

One of the party control commission's basic duties should be to intensify control over the work of the apparatus and to liquidate factions. This work should be carried out immediately after the conference. A basic feature of unity is not the artificial unity of representatives of factions and groups, but the ensuring of real unity of activity in work and practice. No one is allowed to ignore party discipline and criticism, regardless of their position. Meanwhile, criticism should not take such a form that it stains the party and the revolution's gains, creating pessimism among the people. We are and will be in favor of practical proposals and specific criticism. We should remember first of all that criticism is a responsibility.

It has been proposed at the conference that a statement be approved about consolidating party unity. This document should be turned into a real oath for each party member. We invite each representative, each PDPA member, and all those for whom the party's honor is greater than group and individual interests to sign this document. We will not miss those who refuse to take such an oath out of a lack of political and moral experience. We ask that they stay away and keep our ranks free of their existence and allow the party to unite its thoughts, will, and action. [applause] Otherwise, a bitter destiny, serious action, and the curse of all the party and people will await the [word indistinct] and those who break their promise. [applause] There is no other way and will be no other way but true loyalty to the cause of unity.

Special responsibility to enhance combat capability and ensure party unity has been put on the Central Committee Politburo. I repeat, special responsibility to enhance combat capability and ensure party unity has been put on the Central Committee Politburo. Comrades, after the nationwide party conference in 1360 [1981-82] and especially after the 18th Central Committee plenum, issues related to the military structure and strength of the country's Armed Forces have been permanently at the focus of attention of the party Central Committee Politburo, Revolutionary Council, and the Council of Ministers. It could not have been otherwise, for during these years we were forced to foil the savage attacks by

counterrevolutionaries and the growing interventionist arm of regional reaction and international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan.

The PDPA and the DRA Government, have always focused their attention on such issues as service, living and pay conditions for soldiers and NCO's, and improved political training for military officers. Under the new law on conscription, the compulsory term of service for conscripts and reserves has been reduced noticeably. Salaries for soldiers and NCO's has increased on average from 7 to 25 times. The basic results of activities by the PDPA and the DRA Government is our Armed Forces' strength, the enhancement of its fighting capability, and its combat readiness.

Given the experience gained, and to enhance the responsibility and independence of the defence councils of the provinces, the zonal defense councils have been disbanded. Since the fourth quarter of 1365 [1986-1987], the headquarters of the Armed Forces High Command has been formed and is carrying out its activities daily. The heroism shown by our Armed Forces' personnel while facing the enemy shows their increased combat capability. Ten military units and companies have been awarded the title of hero units for their bravery, firmness, and gallantry.

DRA medals and decorations have been awarded to more than 30,000 soldiers of the Army and state security forces. Also, 143 soldiers have been honored with the rank of general and 13 have been honored with the title of DRA Hero. Their names are martyr Faiz Muhammad, (Shahid Ahmaddudin), Shirzamin, Jum'a Khan, Kabuli, Shahid Ahmad Sayyed, Muhammad Jum'a, Shahid Sayyed Habib, Abdurrashid Rostam, martyr Ghulam Faruq, Shahid Muhammad Hasan, (Shahed Jan), and Shahid Akhtar Muhammad.

We must mention the real selfless assistance of the internationalist soldiers of the Soviet Union's limited contingents rendered to our people in their just struggle. These internationalist fighters have saved thousands of Afghan children, women, and old people by putting their own lives in danger every day. They make worker production possible, harvesting by peasants possible, and make it possible for children to attend school. Remember last September and October, how the people of Afghanistan, with love and tears in their eyes, saw off six regiments of the limited Soviet contingent returning to their country. The PDPA Central Committee has received 142,000 letters of thanks and friendship in this connection. The combat fraternity between Afghan and Soviet soldiers, which consolidates daily, is our great gain. We should hold it dear and expand it comprehensively.

Our country expresses its eternal thanks to the Soviet people and the internationalist soldiers for their past and present assistance in building a new Afghanistan. [applause] Everyone in the world knows that the process of returning the limited Soviet contingent has begun from Afghanistan and the time for its completion is also clear. Whenever the United States and its allies guarantee noninterference in the DRA's domestic affairs, the process of returning the internationalist soldiers to their country will continue.

I should note that the internationalist soldiers are not stationed in the provinces. They are stationed at five airfields, including Kabul International Airport, and along the Kabul-Salang Hayratan highway. Transporation security along this highway is not only in the interests of Afghanistan, but also of 40 other countries that use this route for trade purposes, such as the Soviet Union, India, France, Japan, the CSSR, GDR, FRG, Bulgaria, Syria, Hong Kong, and Bangladesh.

Another bright example of the future fraternal cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DRA is the agreement on a joint Soviet-Afghan space flight made during our meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in Moscow. [applause] There is no doubt that this flight will be an important national and international event. I am pleased to inform you that a special commission has been set up under the chairmanship of Brig Gen Comrade Watanjar, the DRA minister of communication, on the basis of a decision by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, for practical future space flights. [applause]

As for our thinking on military doctrine under reconciliation, our thinking comprehensively reflects the nature of our social and state structure, and through this the domestic and foreign policy of the PDPA toward defending the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Peaceful work by Afghanistan's people is being spelled out. To implement the great tasks put forward by the national and democratic revolution, the country needs peace and normal political, economic, commercial relations with all countries, especially neighboring countries.

The important character of our military doctrine—that is, its defensive nature—emanates from this fact. Afghanistan will never carry out offensive military operations against other countries or coalitions of other countries, unless it is attacked. In addition, we will constantly enhance the combat readiness of our Armed Forces to reduce the possibility of a surprise attack. Therefore, there are two principles in our military doctrine: the desire to avoid military clashes with our neighbors and the ability to respond in case of an attack on Afghanistan. On one very important issue: The men who shed their blood for the April Revolution and a peaceful life should receive necessary material and spiritual assistance by the government and social organizations. We should consult with each other about the creation of a state committee for the disabled and the families of the revolution martyrs.

Comrades, current Afghan society shows a colorful socioeconomic, political, cultural, national, and spiritual picture. Consider our economy: The fundamental economic foundations are coexisting with each other. They exist together and require particular approaches; not just in the economic field, but in socioeconomic areas, too. These foundations differ from each other from the viewpoint of their socioeconomic character. Each has its own evolutionary direction and each has various development possibilities. However, all of them exist together and are linked, relying on each other.

In their joint efforts we do not see one base trying to defeat the other or remove it from the economic sphere. Here we conclude that, above all, the socioeconomic factors require a multiparty and coalition system. Utilizing all foundations is the first duty regarding the country's stabilization and development for completely meeting all needs and demands of our people. We should not forget that economic foundations are not abstract and bookish topics; they are the forms of production engaging the majority of our compatriots. Moreover, all those engaged in this or that sector want their interests and demands to be noticed and reflected in socioeconomic fields.

We regard the present development method of our economy as secondary, but the duty to remedy backwardness is composed of specific social productions or foundations. Therefore, our development duty must be fundamental, not secondary. The solution and (?regulation) of the national economy today requires fundamental thought. Reconstructing a multiple foundation economy, without determining for each foundation specific duties and specific development objectives—we should seriously think about their solution and discuss them. [sentence as heard]

Obviously, it is important to have a clear idea of the socioeconomic development parameters that the country might achieve after 10 or 15 years. Because of this, the issue of foreseeing and designing programs for socioeconomic development is important for us. Considering this, the Politburo has commissioned Comrade Keshtmand to deliver a special speech about the growth of the national economy under the coalition. I will identify some socioeconomic problems: the party's agrarian policy is being restructured slowly; mistakes in work with peasants have distanced them from the party and prepared the ground for making them draw closer to the enemy.

Previously, fundamental attention was paid to the growth of government enterprises and cooperatives, although their share in agricultural output was 1 percent. The new land and water relationship is, to a large extent, in conformity with the principles of justice, complete efficiency, and effective utilization of water and land. What are the immediate duties in this area?: Just distribution and rational utilization of each drop of water and each acre of land; revival of cotton growing and future cultivation of other industrial plants; the solution to meat and foodstuff problems in Kabul especially; hence, the immediate creation of poultry and subsidiary economic farms and training for technical and agricultural cadres.

It is necessary for us to intensify party effectiveness among the peasants and to broaden the attraction and absorption of peasants in the PDPA. The party that regards itself as a national party in our country must rely on the peasantry. The Central Committee is, to a large extent, indebted to the peasants. Many times over the past 5 years efforts have been made so that the issues of agrarian policy are considered in a special Central Committee plenum. But nothing actually happened. The Politburo suggests that the coming regular plenum be devoted to current and future issues of development in the agriculture sector. [applause]

It is necessary for us to improve and intensify the socioeconomic role of the government sector. This sector, not in word but in deed, must become an organizer for the growth of productive forces in all economic areas. [applause] It must ultimately become the fundamental sector, not only because of its social status, but because of its gains in economic fields. Profiteering and constant growth in output are the fundamental directions for work improvement in the government sector.

For economic growth to be acceptable to all, we should correctly identify our fundamental link and fundamental economic transfer mechanism and utilize them properly. In such a setup the bazaar and goods producers will become the central agents in product relations. Our economic policy should pay every attention to the interests of goods producers. We must put the future of producers and the leadership of their establishments under our consistent attention. Let those who produce goods and supply them to the market be confident that they will obtain a just price for their products and will not face market strains because of the state. The state policy should maintain the objective principle of just cooperation and mutually beneficial help for all goods producers.

The pivot of our economic programs is the growth of producers. In this connection, I again emphasize our further broadening of contacts with private investors. It is necessary for work toward expanding and deepening long-term economic cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union—including advancing work in industry, agriculture, construction, and border trade in the northern DRA areas—to be strengthened. In the coming 2 years the link of energy systems in the northern areas with the Soviet Union will be further strengthened. I would like to mention the direct cooperation of the DRA provinces with the provinces of the Soviet Republics. The PDPA is not at all considering giving up these relations under the coalition and multiparty system. It is therefore necessary to emphasize from the beginning their effectiveness and increasingly long-term character.

Direct border cooperation will help deepen future Afghan-Soviet friendship. The most important fact is that the existence of these relations is also acceptable to the opposition forces. In this way, these relations will help strengthen the coalition administration. In recent years we have brought up the open and ugly negation of the norms and regulations of the distribution of goods-in-assistance given to us by the fraternal Soviet Union. Therefore, the Central Committee and the state are commissioned to outline a necessary mechanism structure for distributing goods-in-assisstance, with the participation of the commission of national reconciliation, to eliminate the possibility of its unjust and insincere distribution. In addition, it is necessary for a popular control system to be created from top to bottom, with broadest authority granted to these organs.

I am confident that the delegates will support this proposal. All people of Afghanistan are indignant over the fact that grants-in-aid are not being justly distributed to them and that hoarding and bribery has been transformed into a source of wealth for individuals.

Delegate comrades, the Afghan leadership is consistently working for dialogue with the opposition, the seven-party alliance, and other organizations. No one can deny the constructiveness of this dialogue. Over 10 months our government has issued 14 declarations concerning compromises. What did we get in reply? Despite the fact that the policy of national reconciliation is attracting increasing support and gaining momentum, it has been severely (?unanswered) by the extremists. Meanwhile, we hear abuse and see ideological subversion which, as part of a psychological war, are being deceptively expanded with cunning and without mercy.

In the programs of lie-spreading radios, hatred, allegations, and threats are increasing. These programs are being broadcast in all languages spoken by Afghan people. If, before the revolution, the name of Afghanistan was hardly mentioned in the Western media, now, as if by command, various radios—including eight in Pakistan—are racing each other, competing to defame the policy of national reconciliation. Publications, posters, propaganda leaflets, video cassettes, and audio cassettes full of slogans and provocative antistate claims have begun circulating like floods.

However, ask the leaders of the seven-party alliance what happened to the ludicrous declaration of 17 January 87 put forward by them in response to our declaration of national reconciliation. None of the articles of that declaration has been implemented. The opposition had sworn that they would hold elections in their areas. However, this plan was foiled. Around the world they announced the creation of an Afghan government in exile. Nothing has come of it. Then they announced the drafting of a constitution. Again their plan came to nothing. This adventurism by them also failed. The people are engaged in discussing our constitution. Deep crisis, stagnation, and design for eliminating each other, and the accidents that some time ago came to Gulbuddin, Khalis, and Ahmad Shah [not further identified] are examples of activities by the seven-party alliance, which is tied to its web like a spider.

It is interesting that the leaders of the seven counterrevolutionary organizations, in view of changes in the attitudes of some Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan, have replaced their personal guards with Pakistani citizens. We have sufficient evidence to support our claim that the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation by our party deprived the counterrevolution of their main, popular, and false slogans. The opposition all over the world cries that Afghanistan has been invaded by Soviet troops, but at the same time it gives figures and statistics that 85 percent of Afghan territory is in the hands of the counterrevolution. These light-headed people do not want to see anything or hear anything. But people are increasingly realizing who their friends are and who their enemies are.

People see that during reconciliation Afghan-Soviet military units were withdrawn from provinces such as Nimruz, Farah, Laghman, Bamian, Ghowr, Oruzgan, the Urgand District, and the Khowst major district. The local people have established a popular power and a reliable self-defense. The opposition is shedding tears as if Islam were in danger in the DRA and in Kabul. The harsh falseness of such slogans is obvious to the point where even Western journalists who have visited Kabul ignore this topic and no one is still picking up on it. We invite those mullahs living on the other side to take this opportunity and return to their homeland. Over the past 8 years more than 2 billion afghanis have been allocated for constructing mosques and providing assistance to the clergy. This figure is three times the amount spent for the same purpose in the 50 years prior to the revolution. Now more than 1,000 mullahs and ulema have been elected to local organs of state power and administration.

Now we should see what the so-called defenders of Islam are doing for Afghan Muslims. They have martyred 1,000 clergy for serving the people and for working to establish peace in the country. They have destroyed hundreds of mosques, dishonored dozens of sacred places, and set fire to religious books and the Holy Koran. In political hysterics, the reactionaries swear that they will never accept the PDPA in a coalition government. No doubt these are cries from the White House. It is the White House that does not want to see the PDPA at the head of the negotiating table for conciliation. What can one say to them? The people see for themselves who brings life to Afghans and who brings death. The people will resolve this problem with no mistake and their method of solution will be proper. The people know what great work has been done and is being done by the PDPA for a better and peaceful life.

In case the leaders of the seven-party alliance do not adopt a constructive stand toward national reconciliation, we will accelerate contacts with the commanders of

armed groups inside the country as well as with the second-ranking commanders living aborad. We will propose to them that organizing the coalition organs of administration will preserve their specific autonomy in regions under their control. Undoubtedly, they will establish mutually useful contacts with the central government in Kabul.

We think that in our future contacts with the opponents living abroad, we would like to employ moderate and neutral forces to normalize the situation in the country. A proposal has been made that offices of representatives of the main opposition organizations be opened in Kabu—provided their leaders express their principled agreement with the idea of compromise and the establishment of peace and security. This would be another step toward peace and security. Let us again propose to the opposition, instead of war, its alternative: compromise and avoidance of fanning hostility among the compatriots, enabling them to not feel ashamed after the reconciliation.

Comrades, the emblems of national reconciliation consist of a pair of hands joined together. We have extended our hands not for mercy but for friendship. This is our hope for peace, firm, and unshakable. In the future, too, we will resolutely defend the first fruits of national reconciliation against those trying to trample and poison them, against those wanting to destroy us and our hopes for peace. The policy of national reconciliation has now been changed into a determining trend for most of countries fighting to introduce revolutionary changes, to ensure independence and territorial integrity. Our Nicaraguan friends and the Latin American countries as a whole have achieved great success in this regard. Promising trends can be seen in Indochina. Our Cambodian comrades have formulated exceptionally concrete and interesting programs on the basis of the Afghan experience.

Thus, the policy of national reconciliation has really been changed into the achievement of national democractic movements of many people and countries, and an inseparable part of life in the international community. In this way, our responsibility toward both our people and the international liberation movement has increased. Our people do not claim that they have declared [as heard] the national reconciliation, but our people are in favor of implementing the policy of national reconciliation. Political and state figures, as well as Western journalists, are showing special nterest in the following questions: How does the mechanism for implementing the national reconciliation work? How are the national reconciliation commissions functioning? How will the refugees begin their lives after returning? How is the process of joining the armed opposition groups to the government going?

[30 second break in transmission]

On the occasion of the 42d UN General Assembly session we have extensively utilized all opportunities to amend the draft resolution on Afghanistan. Our diplomats have visited 53 countries around the world explaining national reconciliation. They have comprehensively explained the DRA's domestic and foreign policy. On the eve of the new round of Geneva talks, it is necessary to exert strong pressure on the Pakistani military administration to foil the aggressive nature of Islamabad's policy. Establishing and expanding strong contacts, initiating serious dialogue, and starting work in this area are the duties of the Central Committee and our diplomats. Our foreign friends and diplomats from friendly countries are present here. Delegates to our conference send their warm greetings and heartfelt appreciation to the people of the friendly countries for their unbiased assistance. [applause]

Comrades, in accordance with the resolutions of the June plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, the Politburo commission has completed its work in drafting the new PDPA program of action. The program is the militant banner of the revolutionary party and is its basic theoretical and political document in which the basic and most important tasks and the current and future objectives and the means of achieving them have been formulated precisely.

The changes that have taken place in the country during the last 5 years have aided the party's new policy on national reconciliation and the need for realizing the PDPA's program of action in line with the objective life and legitimacy of social growth and revolution. The PDPA will continuously organize the theoretical and practical issue of the struggle to end the bloody war and to establish peace in Afghanistan. The 16th plenum and the extraordinary and June plenums of the party Central Committee have played a great part in this regard. Documents of the above-mentioned plenums have the importance of a program, have equipped party organizations with a specific plan for the struggle toward national peace, and have enriched the theory and practice of the national democratic revolution in our country.

Our party is optimistic about the prospects of the struggle to reach peace and end the fratricide. At the same time we do not regard our task as simple; we realize the practical difficulties and can see many obstacles in this path. However, the PDPA has faith in national awareness and the power of the masses who are thirsty for peace and who see a solution to this task in the near future. There is continuity between the present program and the draft of the new program. We have not yet achieved the objectives set out in the previous program of action. Therefore, this strategic task—building a new and just society in Afghanistan—has kept its importance in the new draft with tested theoretical and political content.

The new draft has been rid of elements such as undue haste and simplification of the main problems of the revolutionary process. Now it is clearly obvious that the

national democratic revolution is a necessary and vital phase in the all-round progress of the country. But the fruits and the fundamental results of this process cannot be reflected suddenly and in the first stages of the revolution. In reality we simplified the image and exaggerated the importance of the changes and hastily issued statements about them in the mass media. In light of the demands of life and national peace, most amendments were made about the new political system.

It was our duty so that the party by organizing this new political system would have a truly dialectical and effective approach. For this it was necessary for us to avoid extremely hardline thinking in the structure of such a system, the principle of a one-party system, and a one-sided attitude to other social and political forces. These are the forces which until recently we could not see as our serious colleagues in the common struggle for the interests of the homeland and we even negated their rights.

The new draft of the action program identifies the position of the party and its place in the political and social system being constructed in such a way that the party truly gains the opportunity to be turned into a leading political force for reaching national peace and a powerful factor in the protection of peace in the future. The universal interest of people in peace fixes the essence and aims of the new political system. This all depends on the PDPA, and this party, despite the claims of some comrades, does not and will not give away power: It only refrains from wielding a monopoly of power to broaden the party from the viewpoint of composition, credibility, and prestige.

The essence and characteristic of the Afghan state has also been newly formulated. This matter is of principal importance because the lack of clarity of this question contributes to the continuation of bloodshed and fratricide in the country. The position of the party in this regard is that the character and essence of the Afghan state emanates not from a limited party approach, but from objective reality and a true balance of forces. The formulation which has been made in the new draft action program concerning Afghanistan, as an independent, nonaligned, and neutral country, helps toward this matter. What is the essence of this?

Independent: The essence of this is that Afghanistan is independent and the master of its own destiny and, except for the will of its people, it is not tied to the apron strings of anyone else. [applause]

Neutral: This means that in war and clashes Afghanistan will not participate in support of any one country or any alliance of countries. Its essence is that Afghanistan will pursue the path of peace and construction. Its essence is that no one in any way and at any time will make Afghanistan's sons shed their blood for the interests of others.

Nonaligned: This means that Afghanistan will not join any aggressive pact and military-political bloc and its land will not be put at the disposal of foreign military bases. It means that Afghanistan, along with other developing countries, will struggle for peace, for the planet earth, for space without an arms race, and for lasting peace for the creation of a new economic system and for its all-round growth and development in conditions of peace, cooperation and trust.

When our party was preparing this trilateral unifying formula of the position of Afghanistan, it was not pursuing limited, unilateral party or group interests. We proposed limiting interests with a specific character for national peace and reconciliation. This is our strategy, which defines our tacts as well as all our practical work. Afghanistan will be an Afghanistan that the people of Afghanistan desire. [applause]

The new draft of the action program has specified the precise methods of the party in its work in the economic, social, national, ideological, and defense areas and makes all its work dependent on the speeding up and consolidation of national reconciliation. The party organizations and committees are directed toward this specific task, toward the implementation of their work in the aforementioned areas with the party's policy toward the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. There is no doubt that the new draft of the PDPA's action program will have an encouraging influence on party members and all pioneer forces of society, for the prupose of speeding up the process of national reconciliation and the growth and development of the country. The programmed plans should be accepted with heart and wisdom and the action program should be transformed into practical action. This is the fundamental issue for the party, the people and the homeland for whom the party is living and struggling.

Comrades, we are at the threshold of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Ninteen days are left for this great festival of progressive humanity. The Great October Revolution, a victory which was achieved by the Bolsheviks under the leadership of the great Lenin, brought about the state of the new era—the state of peasants and workers. The Soviet Union has succeeded in conquering high summits in the course of 70 years and has been transformed into a powerful state and the bulwark of peace and progress for all people of our planet. The country of Lenin has had long good-neighborly relations with Afghanistan. The people of the Soviet Union, who have suffered many wars, show sincere understanding for our people because those who show sympathy have themselves suffered pain.

The Soviet Union has rendered great selfless help to our people and continues to help them. The inhabitants of Kabul, of remote villages, soldiers and students, workers and farmers, feel the effects of this help in practical terms. Afghan-Soviet friendship was conferred on us by our fathers and forefathers. It has passed the test of time,

is developing successfully, and it is gaining new international content. This friendship is the sacred pride of the Afghans. [applause] This friendship passes from heart to heart and from generation to generation. Our people say that the friend of the father is the dear heritage of the son. No one can ever damage our friendship. As long as the sun shines, Afghan-Soviet friendship will persist. Our people, our children, and our grandchildren will remain loyal to this friendship.

Comrades, our party and all people of Afghanistan cordially support all the Soviet Union's peace initiatives, as well as the profound statements and shining declarations of Mikhail Gorbachev, who is the great organizer for a world without war and nuclear weapons. [applause] Allow me, on your behalf and behalf of the Afghan people, to express our profound gratitude and best wishes from the bottom of our hearts on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution to Mikhail Gorbachev—the general secretary CPSU Central Committee—to all communists and the Soviet people, to all the CPSU leadership, and to the Soviet Government. We wish them peace, prosperity, and success in achieving their great plans. [applause]

Comrades, we should consider the reasons behind convening the Second PDPA Congress—23 years have passed since the first party congress, which in itself is an extraordinary incident—and these reasons conform with our party's norms: The party needs a profound and serious plan; it is necessary for us to renew the composition of the Central Committee and the Politburo; to equip the party from the viewpoint of tactics and strategy with new plans for the future; and to better and more clearly think out its goals. The party congress is the highest and the most authoritative source of the party, the decisions of which have the force of law for all party organizations and members. It is now necessary for us to take formidable steps.

The party congresses play an important role in the party's unification because the congress, as the party's highest organ, determines the whole party's priorities instead of its secondary issues. The most important issue for us is to put a permanent end to factionalism, groupings, and fractionism. [applause] The congress, since it obtains its power from the whole party, can thus fight all these harmful phenomena so that it can create the foundation for the PDPA's future fundamental development as a unified body and pioneer, and as the factor for progressive influence on the country's future movement on future occurrences. There are similarly possibilities for utilizing the April revolution's 10th anniversary for the purpose of rallying the people for the national reconciliation campaign. We have no intention of rewriting history. The past 10 years of the revolution are important for us because the people have paid its price with their blood and their souls. It was possible for the second party congress to be convened on the eve of the April revolution's 10th anniversary. What do the comrades think? [applause]

All of these matters have an inspiring effect on all party members and patriots. Many times we have been asked: Now that we are walking along the path of reconciliation, what comes next? What is the answer? Once we pass along this path and obtain new experience of the struggle, then in the next congress we will come together and collectively determine alternate goals.

Allow me to talk about the powerful Aresh. Once upon time, our country was attacked by a foreign power and the problem of boundaries came up. The attackers said: If there is an archer among you, he should shoot an arrow. Wherever it falls will be the demarcation line. People selected Aresh and escorted him to the field specified for this purpose. Aresh put the whole of his strength into the task and shot the arrow. People cheered him and wanted to thank him, but they could not find him because his whole being had flown with the arrow. Like Aresh, comrades, like Aresh, all party members must use their whole life, strength, and wisdom for the realization of the phenomenon of our beloved reconciliation, for the realization of peace and for the toiling man. [applause]

Reconciliation must be supported. Reconciliation must be defended. Reconciliation must be resolutely advanced. Reconciliation, the beautiful flower in the garden of our people, must be tended. Whatever is within our reach must be used so that this flower does not wither but decorates our life. We have made many achievements, but these achievements can be greater and more convincing. The national reconciliation policy is still at the beginning of the road and must be speeded up. National reconciliation is the continuation of the April Revolution. We should work, we should struggle and be active so that the policy of national reconciliation succeeds. Thank you.

India

Amritsar Curfew Lifted; Situation 'Peaceful'

BK221309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, the curfew in Amritsar city was completely lifted this afternoon. The situation in the city is peaceful.

The curfew was clamped yesterday morning as a precautionary measure to thwart the attempt by some antinational elements to hold an assembly in the Golden Temple complex propagating communalism, secessionism, and violence.

Meanwhile, the Amritsar police have released all but two persons rounded up during the search of some buildings adjacent to the Golden Temple yesterday morning. An official spokesman said that the two have been held for their links with terrorists. The search was carried out on information that some terrorists were hiding in those buildings.

2 Killed; 3 Injured

BK230326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed and three seriously injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last evening. In Amritsar District, one person was shot dead in village Chola Saheb and one dead body was recovered from a sewage drain in Mohan Nagar locality of Amritsar city.

Two attendants of a gurdwara [Sikh shrine] received bullet injuries in a village under Nakodar police station of Jullundur District and a shopkeeper was injured in village Tejakalan in Gurdaspur District when two different groups of terrorists fired at them last evening.

8th PRC Border Talks Slated for New Delhi

BK151455 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 5 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 4 October (*United News of India*)—The eighth round of Sino-Indian official-level talks to resolve the boundary issue will begin here 13 November. An eight-member Chinese delegation to the talks will be headed by their vice foreign minister, Liu Shuqing. It will begin talks with the Indian delegation on the day it arrives.

The Chinese delegation will remain in the capital for 6 days, until 18 November, during which it will hold intensive dialogue on various aspects of the border dispute. According to the program, the Chinese delegation will remain in the capital the whole time and will not visit any other city.

According to informed sources, India will adopt a positive attitude towards resolving the border dispute. India still views the border question as an important issue and isolating it would make it very difficult to build an environment of trust.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, after consulting his cabinet colleagues many times, recently stated that if real progress was to be made in the border talks, we must make a change in the level and method of talks as well as bring some more political initiative into them.

The Indian delegation will be led by Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon, who himself was formerly India's ambassador to China. He will be assisted by senior External Affairs Ministry officials and India's ambassador to China, C.V. Ranganathan, who will arrive a few days earlier to prepare for the Chinese delegation's visit.

Paper Supports Purchase of U.S. Supercomputer

BK221705 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 14 Oct 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Why Only a U.S. Supercomputer?"]

[Text] It is only natural that there is some misunderstanding concerning the purchase of a U.S. supercomputer. The question may arise as to why the Indian Government, after wasting 2 years trying to acquire the XMP-24, has agreed to take the inferior XMP-14 supercomputer? Some may even say it is a result of the policy of subordination of Rajiv's government. But in fact, it is not like that at all.

If you feel that you should acquire the XMP-24 and the seller is not willing to oblige, then what do you do? Either you refuse to deal with him or take whatever, for the time being, is available to attend to your task. The Indian Government has chosen the second option. We now have to see to what extent the XMP-14 supercomputer can meet our demands.

As is clear from the debate so far, we need a supercomputer to predict weather conditions and crop prospects. Hence, what needs to be seen is how far the XMP-14 will fulfill our objective. The broad information available about this machine's capabilities assures us that in this country's prevailing technical environment it will run our business comfortably. Then why the ballyhoo against this deal?

The fact is, the U.S. media published reports about the future plans of the company manufacturing the XMP which implied that the company is considering the replacement of the XMP-type computer with better machines on the assembly line. Although the company has not refuted these reports, it has said that they have over a hundred computers of this generation functioning, and even if they go in for the next generation of computers, they will continue to manufacture the necessary spare parts for the current generation. The letter written by Rajiv Gandhi to President Reagan after the preliminary agreement indicates that such an assurance has been received from the company.

Now the question remains as to why this haste in accepting the inferior machine after adopting a righteous stand for 2 years to acquire only the XMP-24? Although all the details of the deal are not available, it is definite that both sides have yielded a bit from their rigid positions. India, perhaps, was forced by the unprecedented drought to give up its intransigence. On the other hand, the U.S. thought that the removal of this irritant before the prime minister's visit would create a good environment for Reagan-Gandhi talks.

It is possible that the U.S. also came to the conclusion that if they did not give the supercomputer to India, the Russians or the Japanese would clinch the deal.

As far as strings attached to the deal are concerned, there is no need to raise a lot of hue and cry. The computer will have to be accompanied by 'corporate' engineers to operate it initially. Another condition, perhaps, is that the U.S. will have the right to know for what purposes we are using the machine.

One reason stated for not supplying the XMP-24 is that the U.S. fears that the Russians might get access to its technology. You may call these conditions insulting, but we should not forget that at the pace at which electronic technology advances no country can monopolize it forever. How long would we wait to acquire modern technology?

Secondly, it is also necessary to admit our inability to operate the XMP-24 or YMP. If it is true that there is a provision in the deal to further expand the computer facility in the future, then there is no need to feel perturbed about it. We should learn from Japan. It did not suddenly became equal to the U.S.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Predicts U.S., Iraqi Defeats

LD231016 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani says the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf will have nothing but total defeat and disenchantment for Washington's statesmen.

"Iran is fighting for its right against the U.S.," he says and further believes that America's official presence in this confrontation and the events which have occurred in the Persian Gulf so far, all attest to this U.S. defeat.

According to Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani Iran has gained a "great victory" from the recent events in the region and he is confident that "by mobilizing our forces, we will be able to put an immediate end to the war (with Iraq)."

These, together with some other important remarks were made by the spokesman of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) at a huge gathering of Muslim worshippers assembled at Tehran University campus and nearby streets to listen to this week's Friday congregational prayer sermons despite a heavy rainfall today.

The worshippers welcomed the temporary prayer leader of Tehran by shouts of 'revenge, revenge' urging Iranian officials to give a suitable response to last Monday's U.S. naval attack on two Iranian offshore oil rigs in the Persian Gulf waters.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the U.S., Britain, France, and the 'host sheikhs' in the region (thus criticizing them for welcoming foreign troops) that the way to return was still open. He advised them to retreat "now that it (the conflict) has reached (the stage of) hitting oil installations and resources."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed one of the following options to end the war: Either Iraq should stop its attacks, or these (the above-mentioned) countries keep neutrality in the war, or the aggressor be identified as soon as possible. Otherwise, he stressed, the Islamic Republic relying on God and being in possession of more effective 'invisible shots' will use them if 'obstinacy (by Iraq and its backers) continues.'

"It is you who should choose the right path because indeed we do not want war as the Islamic Republic has not been the initiator of the war nor has it been the pioneer in hitting the cities and using chemical weapons and attacking ships.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has been defending (itself) so far and has only embarked on retaliatory measures. And this is our right. We will not quit this Islamic principle (retaliation) as well as our demand for justice and persecution of the aggressor to the last drop of our blood," he vowed.

Imam Khomeyni's SDC representative said ever since the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, Washington has lost two helicopters, two ships, one mine-sweeper and more than forty men.

On Iran's losses, he said "we have also given ten martyrs and lost one ship and three boats. Our oil platforms have also been damaged by the U.S. but we will take reparations for all these (losses) from the U.S."

"But among the things we have gained is that our initial stance that the Islamic Republic is in fact fighting with the U.S., France and Britain, has been proved.

"On the other hand, the U.S. military expedition proved that today Iran is the most anti-imperialist country in the world and world revolutionaries look at the Islamic Republic as a major anti-imperialist base."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the U.S. objectives in the region were to weaken the Islamic revolution and save Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn on the one hand and to help the Zionist regime end the Palestine issue with the aid of reactionary states in the region, on the other.

Warns of 'Invisible Shots'

LD231125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Coinciding with the demise of the seal of the prophets, His Holiness Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah—peace be upon him and his scion; the martyrdom of Imam Hasan al Mujtaba—peace be upon him; and on the eve of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam

Rida—peace be upon him—Muslim compatriots throughout the country today performed their political-religious Friday prayer rituals.

The citizens of Tehran congregated at Tehran University campus and the surrounding thoroughfares and performed Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council devoted the second Friday prayer sermon to the manifestations and consequences of the aggressive U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. Describing the objectives pursued by the United States in sending its military forces to the region's waters—namely, striking at the Islamic revolution and supporting the war-mongering Iraqi regime—he said:

The exacerbation of tension in the Persian Gulf, the creation of insecurity in this region's waters, the increase in shipping insurance premiums, the attacks on U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, and the substantial financial losses the United States has sustained as a result of sending its forces to the Persian Gulf are all part of the adverse aspects of the U.S. military presence in the region.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council later addressed the United States and its allies, including the region's reactionary leaders, and stressed: Despite the fact that you have failed to pay attention to the Islamic Republic of Iran's clear and logical policy with regard to the imposed war and have dragged the region and the world toward a crisis, we declare that there is still room for you to turn back. Tell the Iraqi regime not to attack our interests in the Persian Gulf; identify the aggressor sooner.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Iraqi regime's current backers: You should officially declare your neutrality. You should refrain from placing financial and military assistance at the disposal of the Iraqi regime so that the war may be condluded. You should know that numerous invisible shots will be fired at your interests and that greater invisible shots are yet to be fired. You should know that so long as blood is running through our veins we will continue to pursue the vindication of our rights in our pursuit of the aggressor.

Velayati Meets With Andreotti, Returns Home

LD230914 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned here from a week-long official visit which took him to Cuba and Nicaragua.

On his way back to Tehran, Velayati held a two-hour meeting with his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti at the Rome Airport Thursday night.

During the meeting which was held at the request of the Italian foreign minister, Velayati outlined the Islamic Republic's stance vis-a-vis the U.N. efforts to put an end to the 7-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

Velayati urged Andreotti as the present chairman of the Security Council to take a serious stance against the United States for 'breaching Article Five of Resolution 598' on the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iranian foreign minister described the presence of U.S. naval fleets in the Persian Gulf waters as a 'tension-creating phenomenon' and reminded Andreotti that the recent U.S. attacks on Iran's oil installations very well revealed Washington's support for the Baghdad regime and its regional backers.

Reiterating that the Islamic Republic was not seeking war, Velayati stressed however that the U.S. aggression will not be left unanswered.

In a short talk with IRNA correspondent at the Rome Airport Velayati said in the meeting he had reiterated Iran's principled terms to end the war with Iraq, i.e., identification of the aggressor and his punishment.

Asked to comment on a remark by Andreotti that to identify the aggressor party in the war, it would be enough to review September 1980 press reports, Velayati replied Islamic interests in the region demand identification of the Iraqi regime as the aggressor country.

Velayati said it would not be sufficient to merely rely on press reports to identify the aggressor. "If the United Nations intends to take just steps to end the war, it must identify Iraq as the aggressor party and decide a court for its punishment," he added.

The Iraqi invasion of Iran began Sept. 22, 1980. But Iraq claims there were some border clashes between the two sides before Sept. 22 which it marks as the start of the war.

Asked whether Iran would agree with the idea (raised by Andreotti) that The Hague should determine who the aggressor is in the Iraq-Iran war, Velayati replied, "Primarily, what we are after is restoration of our trampled rights and we would certainly not let our interests be endangered by the bureacracy of the type of the trial. What the Iranian nation wants is an immediate identification of the aggressor and his definite punishment."

Meanwhile, an informed source told IRNA correspondent in Rome that Andreotti has expressed willingness to visit Iran.

Last night's visit between Velayati and Andreotti was the third between the two over the past three months.

Speaking to reporters at Tehran airport upon his return, Velayati said there are certain countries in the Security Council with good intentions but he regretted that the Council was under the influence of America which he said has violated Resolution 598 by dispatching its troops to the Persian Gulf and by creating further tension in the region.

The Islamic Republic, he stressed, believes that the only way to end the present tension in the region, is for the foreign forces to withdraw and delegate the security and stability of the region to the regional countries themselves.

On his visits to Cuba and Nicaragua, he said the two countries as well as El Salvador's Farabando Marti Liberation Front, had condemned the recent U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf and declared support for Iran.

In Havana, he said, a letter of understanding was signed between Iran and Cuba to promote the level of mutual relations in various political and economic fields.

Also in Managua, Velayati added, he had discussed with senior Nicaraguan officials the strengthening of bilateral ties and the need to counter the U.S. aggressive policies in various corners of the world.

Interviewed on Talks

NC230701 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] At the end of a 6-day official visit to Cuba and Nicaragua, Foreign Minister Velayati and the delegation accompanying him returned to Tehran this morning.

In an interview with our correspondent, Mr Velayati expressed satisfaction with the outcome of this trip, describing it as positive and constructive.

Our foreign minister had a short stopover at the Rome airport on his way back from Cuba where he was welcomed by Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti, who requested the meeting. During this meeting, the Italian foreign minister and the current Security Council chairman expressed satisfaction with the two countries' relations and stressed the need for Italian-Iranian cooperation to continue. He informed Mr Velayati of recent Security Council developments.

Mr Velayati explained the Islamic Republic's principled and basic positions on the imposed war and said: The Islamic Republic's stand is based (?on the recognition) and punishment of the aggressor. We want you, in your capacity as the Security Council chairman, to demonstrate a serious approach toward the United States because of the violation of Resolution No 598. Mr Velayati also said:

By sending warships to the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Administration has exacerbated the tension. Moreover, the recent U.S. attacks on the Islamic Republic's ships and installations show that the United States has overtly entered the war for the benefit of Iraq and of its mentors.

He added: As we have shown, we will retaliate decisively against any aggressive act by the United States or by any other aggressor against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The recent U.S. action, too, will not remain unanswered.

At the end of this visit, Mr Andreotti expressed his wish to visit Iran in the future.

Mr Velayati gave an interview to our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport and answered questions on the outcome of his visit. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Please discuss the Islamic Republic's view on the talks and meetings that took place.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The trips to Cuba and Nicaragua were official visits in response to visits paid by the two countries' officials to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Cooperation and talks with our Cuban and Nicaraguan friends are among the activities that have been increasing on a day-by-day basis since the revolution. We have now reached good levels of cooperation with these two countries in political and international cooperation, as well as in commercial and economic exchanges.

We reached an agreement with the Cuban officials on future bilateral cooperation, especially concerning the recent tension created by the United States in the region. It was agreed that we cooperate (?within the framework) of the Nonaligned Movement's coordination office. As for bilateral relations, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Cuban foreign minister and myself. This memorandum includes various and extensive parts and dimensions. Our outlook for the two countries' future cooperation is good, and the formation of a joint committee is planned.

Both Cuba and Nicaragua issued statements condemning the recent U.S. aggression against the Islamic Republic. The representative of the Farabundo Marti, which is the main struggle front in El Salvador, met with me during my stay in Nicaragua. They too expressed their support for the Islamic Republic and condemned the United States' aggression.

On my way back, we had a short stopover of a few hours at the Rome airport. We met with Mr Andreotti, the Italian foreign minister and the current Security Council chairman, at his request. We discussed bilateral relations. He described recent activities of the Security Council and the rights vested in the Secretary General. We spoke to him about the Islamic Republic's stable and

principled views on the imposed war (?and on the region). It was said that any solution discussed at the Security Council which lacks the basic (?points) acceptable by us—such as the recognition and the punishment of the aggressor—will not be acceptable to us in any way.

[Correspondent] Concerning your talks with the Italian foreign minister, do you foresee any results in the peace talks in view of the steps taken recently by the Security Council and of the rights vested in the secretary general?

[Velayati] There are countries of goodwill in the Security Council. Unfortunately, the Security Council is influenced by countries such as the United States which is among the main violators of the Council's Resolution No 598, and especially Paragraph 5 which prohibits all the members from resorting to any action leading to an exacerbation of tension in the Persian Gulf. The day after the resolution was approved, the United States appeared in the Persian Gulf and is now escalating its military presence daily.

Experiences over the past few weeks have shown that presently the main element of tension in the region is the presence of the forces of the United States and of its allies. The only way to free the region from this tension is for these tension-makers to leave the region and to let regional countries look after their own peace and stability.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] You are welcome. [end recording]

Karrubi Condemns U.S. Attack, Saudi Rulers
LD221500 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of the Shahid (Martyr) foundation today blasted last Monday's U.S. Navy attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, saying the Islamic Republic will not let any blow go unanswered.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi said that after the U.S. Navy attacked the platforms all American diplomatic missions throughout the world went on full alert because they know that Iran enjoys dedicated forces across the globe awaiting an order from the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Karrubi made the remarks in a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the passing away of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) and the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the second imam of the prophet's household at 15 Khordad Square in Central Tehran.

Elsewhere in his speech, the Hojjat ol-Eslam castigated Saudi Rulers for being 'incompetent' noting "if Hijaz (Saudi) rulers had been competent the U.S. would never have ventured to step there."

The Riyadh regime is prepared to cooperate with the U.S. in a bid to remain in power at whatever cost Karrubi said, noting that Washington is committing its atrocities against the Muslim world through the Sa'ud Dynasty.

Declared the Shahid foundation head that the holy sanctuaries in Mecca and Medina should be administered by dedicated Muslims.

He lauded the Iranian people for their spirit of devotion on and behind the battlefields.

Mo'ayeri Says Gulf Situation 'Uncontrollable'
LD221750 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri said here Wednesday that continuation of the U.S.' wicked acts in the Persian Gulf makes the situation 'uncontrollable' as a result of which Washington and its allies will suffer most.

Speaking in a televised political discussion, Mo'ayeri revealed that the U.S. sent messages through various countries requesting Iran to treat its (U.S.) attack on the Iranian trade ship '*Iran-Ajr*' as closed. However, he added, the U.S. unabashedly attacked Iran's oil platforms. Washington resorts to such dirty tricks because of its domestic problems, he stressed.

If the U.S. continues committing these acts, the consequences will lead the region towards catastrophe, he noted.

Terming the U.S. attack on Iranian oil rigs as a blatant aggression on the Islamic Republic's territorial integrity, the deputy premier stressed that Iran will give a deserving answer at an appropriate time. "We powerfully defend our revolutionary principles against aggressors," he reiterated.

Emphasising on the blow-for-blow policy, Mo'ayeri said the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys vast popular and military facilities, some of which are unknown to the aggressors.

Also taking part at the televised discussion was Foreign Ministry Deputy for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani who said the provocations in the Persian Gulf by the U.S. and its allies are a vain bid to save the tottering Iraqi regime.

The U.N. Security Council, he added, has informally accepted the identification of the initiator of the imposed-war as a primary step to end the conflict. "This is a diplomatic victory for Iran," he stressed.

Larijani said a six-point plan suggested by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was first put forth at the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kuwait. The proposal included identification of the aggressor, violation of international regulations, avoiding attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf and preventing the war from spreading.

The Islamic Republic believes that Perez de Cuellar's idea is more constructive and far better than the Security Council Resolution 598. However, he noted, the U.S. and the Iraqi regime oppose the U.N. secretary-general's plan.

Mansuri Assesses Importance of Persian Gulf

LD221854 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular and Cultural Affairs Javad Mansuri explained today the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf as well as its military, political and economic implications on superpowers.

Speaking at the third gathering of the combat units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) from the western parts of the country on the anniversary of the passing away of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) and the second imam of his household Imam Hassan Mojtaba (A.S.), Mansuri said the Persian Gulf has been coveted by both Russia and the West since the last two centuries.

Soviet efforts to reach the warm waters of the Persian Gulf and exploit the rich oil and gas resources have always aroused similar ambitions of the U.S. and Britain, Mansuri said, noting all regional skirmishes stem from their covetings.

The deputy said this very issue made the U.S. and Britain to drag NATO forces to the region, to the extent researchers and historians predict the Persian Gulf war is likely to be internationalized.

Commenting on the Iraqi regime's attempts to internationalize its imposed war on Iran as being in line the U.S. interests, and the U.S. military presence in the waterway, Mansuri said Reagan is desperately trying to save his face. He is deceiving public opinion in order to ensure victory for his party in the next Presidential elections.

Mansuri stressed that it is the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf who should safeguard their own interests and establish their relations with East and West according to mutual interests and apart from any commotion.

Chief Justice Condemns U.S. Oil Rig Attack

LD221718 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili condemned Monday's U.S. attack on Iran's oil platforms, here Wednesday, and questioned international forums' silence towards the issue.

Speaking at a session of the Supreme Judicial Council Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said international forums' mum would only encourage the U.S. to further commit such crimes.

Reiterating Iran's firm will to retaliate any aggression, Musavi-Ardabili said U.S. will be made to regret the dire consequences of its attack.

Ambassador to Lisbon Assails U.S. Strike

LD221642 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Portugal Jahan-Bakhsh Mozaffari described the U.S. attack on Iranian patrol boats and oil installations in the Persian Gulf as acts of 'aggression' on Iran's sovereignty and a violation of international regulations.

In an interview screened by Channel-2 of the national Portuguese television network Monday, the ambassador said that Washington's impudent attacks have pushed the region to the edge of a full-fledged war.

Mozaffari vowed that the Islamic Republic will undoubtedly give a crushing response to the U.S. at an appropriate time.

Commenting on the Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the Iraqi-imposed war, the ambassador said that Iran had not initiated the war, nor is it interested in continuing the conflict but wants justice to be done.

If the United Nations brands Iraq as the aggressor party Iran will be ready to accept decision of an independent court on the punishment of the aggressor, concluded Mozaffari.

Meanwhile, Muslims living in Portugal cabled messages to the Iranian cultural office in Lisbon, castigating the U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf Monday and pledging support to the Islamic Republic.

Dr. Sulayman Wali Muhammad, head of the Portuguese Islamic community in his message condemned the U.S. attack as a 'violation' of international conventions.

Sohrabi Comments on Conscripts, Smuggling
NC221040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Colonel Sohrabi, commander of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stated in an interview with our correspondent that the various reasons given by the absent conscripts concerning their exemption from military duty have been deemed legal. He added: These conscripts, if married and with the necessary legal conditions, can use their exemption [rights].

Col Sohrabi then referred to the facilities for the draftees and said: As most conscripts are village residents, all the country's Gendarmerie posts have been instructed to issue draft cards to them. He added: The conscripts who are immediate family members of martyrs, of prisoners of war, of the missing, or of the Devotees [janbazan] of the Islamic revolution can apply to the draft centers and receive permanent exemption cards.

The Gendarmerie commander then referred to the implementation of the soldier-teacher plan in the two provinces of Kordestan and Azarbayjan Bakhtari and said: This plan was followed up by the Ministry of Education in coordination with the literacy movement. In addition to these two provinces, the plan will also be implemented in the Baluchestan va Sistan, Bovir Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, Hormozgan, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, and Bushehr Provinces, as well as in other deprived areas of the country. Native conscripts will be granted priority in this.

Referring to the anti-smuggling campaign and the goods discovered by the Gendarmerie forces, he said: Since the beginning of the current [Iranian] year, 8,545 kg of opium, 572 kg of heroin, 3,274,432 packets of foreign cigarettes, 2,152 valuable carpets worth billions of rials that were converted into foreign currency, 8,791 various kinds of electronic equipment, and large quantities of other goods worth millions of rials were found and confiscated by Gendarmerie personnel.

Kurdish Group Denounces U.S. Attack
LD221848 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Oct. 22, IRNA—Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in a statement released on Thursday castigated last Monday's U.S. naval attack on Iranian rigs in the Persian Gulf.

The PUK statement also called on regional Muslim nations not to remain silent vis-a-vis the criminal U.S. aggressions in this vital region. The U.S. attack on Iranian oil rigs indicates Washington's collaboration with Baghdad in the Iraqi-imposed war, it said.

The U.S. military build-up in the region is aimed at easing the pressure exerted on Iraq, taking revenge on Iran for its repeated humiliations and saving the ruling Ba'thist regime from its doomed fate, the statement said.

Condemning the U.S. for its military aggression on the Islamic Republic, the PUK pledged to stand by the Muslim nation of Iran in the struggle against the imperialist U.S. and its lackeys.

This statement also invited regional nations and all patriotic forces to unite their ranks in the fight against U.S. aggressions in order to teach it an unforgetable lesson as did Vietnam and Lebanon.

Semnan Forces Hold Amphibious Maneuvers
LD231214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] In the wake of the recent U.S. mischiefs in the Persian Gulf, Mobilization and forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from all over Semnan Province last night held a large-scale amphibious maneuvers codenamed "Helpers of Mahdi" [Ansar-ol Mahdi]. They thus displayed their preparedness to confront U.S. aggressions.

According to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), the forces participating in operation "Helpers of Mahdi" held a glorious march today before noon in Semnan, again declaring their preparedness to deal pounding blows on the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. At the end of the great exercise, the Mobilization and Guards brothers of Semnan Province issued a six-part resolution renewing their support for the guardianship of the jurisconsult and condemning the presence of the United States and her allies in the Persian Gulf. Declaring themselves 100 percent prepared, they demanded that the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran give a decisive and crushing response to the U.S. aggressive forces in the region.

Iran Denies Shelling of Iraqi Cities
LD221534 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) on Thursday refuted an Iraqi claim that Iran shelled the southern Iraqi port city of Basra and Chuwartah.

The WIH spokesman described the Iraqi claim as 'pure fabrication' aimed at paving the way for the perpetration of further wicked acts by the Baghdad regime.

Communique No 2,997 Says Iraqi Gunboat Hit

LD221606 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA—An Iraqi gunboat was destroyed when Iran's Naval coastal artillery fire subjected two enemy gunboats near the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway. The second sustaining damage was forced to flee, announced a military communique released here Thursday.

Communique Number 2997 of the Joint Staff Command said Iranian ground forces dispatched reconnaissance teams to sensitive areas of the battle fronts, especially in the Helaleh sector, preventing Iraqi patrol units from penetrating the Iran's defensive lines.

The communique further said the Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications throughout the fronts killing 10 enemy troops and destroying a vehicle as well as several positions of theirs.

In one of southern fronts, some gun-emplacements, several tanks and a vehicle column of Iraqi troops were pounded by the Muslim combatants as a result of which some Ba'thist soldiers were killed and wounded, it added.

The Iranian forces, continued the communique, checked Iraqi vehicle movements in Mehran, Nahr 'Anbar, Chazabeh and Jassan-Badrah operational regions.

The Muslim combatants brought enemy activities to a halt in Sumar where the enemy was trying to install barbed-wire fences. In western Jofeyr and Majnun Islands Iraqi troops' efforts to build a bridge, were disrupted, said the communique.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts Iran's gendarmerie forces killed and wounded some Iraqi troops, demolishing ten gun-emplacements and setting ablaze a command vehicle of theirs, Wednesday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

President Views Soviet Role in Asia, SAARC

BK220155 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Oct 87 p 5

[Toemsak C. Phalanuphap report]

[Text] The Soviet Union should not be invited to play any role in South and Southeast Asia as long as it has not changed its policy of "hegemony and expansionism," according to Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Zia told *The Nation* in an interview in Rawalpindi last Thursday that the best way to resolve the conflicts in Afghanistan, as well as in Kampuchea, is for the international community, particularly the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement, to put more pressure on the Soviet Union to change its political policy.

Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in December 1979 and more than 100,000 of them are occupying the landlocked country which has a border of about 2,000 kms with Pakistan. About 3.15 million Afghans are living in 328 refugee camps in Pakistan.

Zia noted that although the Soviet Union did not invade Kampuchea, the Soviet aid and "moral support" were instrumental in the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea in December 1978. The Vietnamese invasion has caused more than a quarter million of Kampucheans to flee their hometowns to seek refuge in the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Thailand is also providing temporary shelter to about 116,000 Indochinese in refugee camps. Zia is scheduled to visit one of the camps in Khao I-Dang in Prachin Buri this afternoon.

When asked what should be the role of the Soviet Union in this region, Zia replied: "None."

"Why should the Soviet Union have a role in Southeast Asia or South Asia?" he asked.

The Soviet Union has enough land; it should concentrate on economic and political development in its own vast territory, he added. "They (the Soviets) have no business in exploring (for political opportunities) in your or my domain," Zia told *The Nation.*

When told of Premer Prem Tinsulanon's plan to visit Moscow early next year, Zia said he will urge Prem to impress upon the Soviet leadership the need for a change in the Soviet foreign policy. Zia will meet Prem for talks on bilateral issues at Government House tomorrow morning.

Zia will brief Prem on the Afghan refugee situation and thank Thailand for supporting Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue.

Zia said the Soviet Union should learn from China how to play a constructive role in providing economic assistance to less-developed countries.

China, he added, has "no intentions" of playing any political role outside its border.

Zia said Pakistan will continue to advocate developing closer ties between the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and ASEAN.

SAARC should seek an observer status in ASEAN and offer the same to ASEAN in SAARC, said Zia who was one of the founding fathers of this two-year-old grouping which comprises Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives Island.

Cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN can promote peace and stability in this part of the world, Zia noted.

Interior Minister Blames DRA for Terrorism

BK221536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Federal Interior Minister Mr Nasim Ahmed Ahir has held the Kabul administration responsible for terrorist activities in Pakistan. In an interview with the BBC, he said arrested terrorists admitted that they were funded and trained by the Kabul administration.

The federal minister added that surveillance has been strengthened and new legislation has been drawn up to give strong punishment to those involved in terrorist activities.

About the Afghan refugees, he said basically it has been decided that they be restricted to their camps as far as possible. The federal minister said foreign assistance is enough for only 2 million Afghan refugees whereas there are more than 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Answering a question, he said a nation-wide campaign is on to uncover illegal arms and this campaign has been quite successful. A total ban has been imposed on the issuance of new arms licenses.

Junejo Receives Nepalese, Indian Envoys

BK221600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Nepalese Ambassador Mr Niranjai Bhattari called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. He extended an invitation to the prime minister on behalf of the king and queen of Nepal to visit Nepal. The prime minister said he is looking forward to visiting Nepal to participate in the SAARC summit.

During the visit he will exchange views with the leaders of Nepal, a country with which Pakistan enjoys excellent relations. The Nepalese ambassador briefed the prime minister on the preparations for the summit and its agenda. The summit will begin in Kathmandu on 2 November.

Indian Ambassador S.K. Singh also called on the prime minister and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Sri Lanka

Supreme Court Considers Autonomy Proposals

BK220607 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Supreme Court met Thursday amid tight security to consider a controversial amendment to the Constitution giving limited autonomy to the minority Tamils, police said.

Colombo's deputy inspector general of police, Neil Weerasinghe, said about 250 armed police ringed the court house and a joint military operation was in progress in and around the capital.

"We feel that people opposing the bill might try to create trouble in Colombo," an official spokesman said, adding that judges had been given extra protection and more guards had been placed outside their homes.

The amendment, which allows for the setting up of autonomous provincial councils in the Tamil-dominated Northern and Eastern provinces, is being challenged by 26 petitioners, including former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike.

The proposed legislation is in line with the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord signed in July aimed at ending four years of communal strife in the island nation. Anti-accord rioting broke out in Colombo and the south of the island immediately after it was signed and at least 60 people were killed in street violence.

A leader of the Tamil rebels fighting Indian forces was quoted Wednesday as saying his group had rejected an amnesty offer and its separatist battle would continue. Indian Tamil politician V. Gopalasamy said in Madras he had been told by Sathasivan Krishna Kumar, alias Kittu, of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE): "We will not surrender or lay down our arms."

An Indian High Commission spokesman here said Wednesday 607 LTTE fighters and 127 Indian troops had died since an October 8 offensive to disarm the rebels.

Jayewardene on Provincial Councils Bill

BK221245 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1145 GMT 22 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene told the government parliamentary group meeting today that elections to the provincial councils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces would be held only after the complete cessation of hostilities, the surrender of all arms and other weapons in the hands of the terrorists and the re-settlement of all

those who had been displaced due to violence. Elections to the other provinces could be held in the meantime, states a press release issued by the office of the chief government whip.

The president said so when he explained to the group the provisions in the Provincial Councils Bill and the 13th amendment to the Constitution Bill which have been tabled in parliament.

The group took up for discussion the two bills. President Jayewardene told the members of Parliament (MP's) that they are free to express their views on it and make suggestions, they could also discuss the provisions in subsequent group meetings as well and take a decision after the decisions of the Supreme Court are made known.

President Jayewardene said that nowhere under the Provincial Councils Bill is mention made that the Northern and Eastern Provinces would be one administrative unit. Under the Provincial Councils Bill mention had only been made under Section 37 for any two or three adjoining provinces as declared by the president by proclamation to form into one administrative unit. The merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces had not been provided for separately under the bill.

The president said that the referendum to be held after one year to decide whether the Eastern Province should have a separate provincial council will be held only in the Eastern Province and not in the Northern Province. This was unlike the case when other provinces decided to merge when there should be referendum in all the provinces merging.

The president said that the other issue which had evoked discussion is the provision to make Tamil an official language and English as the link language. The other provisions in the two bills are with regard to the powers and duties of the provincial councils and how the councils should be elected and function.

Therefore the major questions we have to decide is whether we want provincial councils or not. It was the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike who first suggested that provincial councils be set up. He thought that this was the best method to resolve conflicts among ethnic groups.

The late Mr Bandaranaike who was a widely read man found that countries like the U.K., Switzerland, France and others found a decentralised system of administration was the best method to ease communal tensions and prevent ill feelings as far as possible. It appears that Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike is now going against her husband's policies which she has professed to follow.

President Jayewardene said that even during the times of the ancient Sinhala kings this type of decentralised administration was there when the country was divided into three administrative districts by Raja Rata, Maya Rata and Ruhunu Rata. With the advent of the British occupation it was made to five provinces and later it became nine provinces. Therefore one could see that this system has always been changing to suit the needs of the country. "It is not a sacred cow. It can be changed," he said.

The president said that since the Donoughmore Commission period there had been many suggestions to decentralise administration to the provinces and there had been reports of organisations making such suggestions. With universal franchise the Tamils thought they had no place in the central government and wanted a fifty-fifty basis.

When the late Mr S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike brought the Sinhala only act, Mr S.J.V. Chelvanayakam formed the federal party demanding a federal system of government. This demand later took the form of a struggle to create a separate state.

The present government thought of decentralising the administration to the provincial councils. The aim of the proposals of the late Mr Bandaranakike was to merge Northern and Eastern Provinces permanently without any provision for a referendum. What the present government proposed was to merge temporarily until the Eastern Province made a decision at a referendum.

"The country belongs to all its citizens irrespective of whatever community they belonged to. All minorities have the right to live here enjoying all freedoms and rights. We cannot deny their rights using the votes of the Sinhala majority. We have to recognise their rights and it is those rights we hope to give while maintaining the unitary state of the country," President Jayewardene said.

The president said that they had made many moves to resolve the conflicts. They proclaimed Tamil as a national language and were working on various moves when terrorism was unleashed. They even set up the district councils which the Tamil parties were not satisfied with. "Now we have proposed provincial councils. We cannot go beyond that," Mr Jayewardene said.

The president went through the bill clause by clause and said that they were mostly in relation to the procedure of holding elections to the councils, appointment of governors and other administrative matters.

The president next took up the 13th amendment to the Constitution Bill which he said was necessitated to make provision for the Provincial Councils Bill. He said he had for 4-1/2 years attended 175 of the 200 meetings held with various parties and groups on a solution to the problems of the minority and most of the decisions taken at these meetings are incorporated in the bill.

The bill stipulated powers and functions to be assigned to the provincial councils. "I have discussed all these with my ministers. I discussed what powers the ministers would delegate to the provincial councils. For five years we deliberated and discussed. Nothing has been done hastily. I did not do it all by myself. My ministers have agreed to this," President Jayewardene said.

During this period of negotiation India had been acting as a judge and mediator. India was willing to bring the militants to the negotiating table. From 1983 to 1986 a series of discussions were held. He tabled before Parliament the decisions arrived at these discussions and the Provincial Councils Bill contains most of those decisions. The stand the government took was to accept the proposals up to December 1986. The only two new proposals were the amalgamation of Northern and Eastern Provinces temporarily, Tamil to be made an official language and English a link language, the president said.

"As the negotiations failed with the militants not agreeing Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi approached me with the idea of solving the problem without allowing it to drag on any further. The Indian prime minister said that he was willing to come to Sri Lanka and settle this problem as we did. If you were in my position, with the negotiations failing, what would you have done? Say "no" to the Indian initiative? If I said "no" it would have been a foolish act. If we would have had to continue the war by ourselves for years we would have gone bankrupt," the president said.

"When Mr Gandhi said that he was coming I thought it was a golden opportunity to solve the problem, we have now the fourth biggest army in the world to help us get over our problems. For five years we have asked for help from other nations. But no one came. We had to purchase our arms from individuals. The propaganda abroad was that we are killing the Tamils when we were acting to crush terrorism. All these steps are being taken to preserve the unity, sovereignity and territorial integrity of the country."

The president said that the proposal to make Tamil also an official language was his and not Prime Minister Gandhi's, as the Tamils did not want their language to be confined only to the kitchen. If they had not signed the peace accord the country would have faced a catastrophe.

President Jayewardene said that there was terrorism in the south and they were now acting against them. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) is using this also to bully the government. Mrs Bandaranaike thinks that this is a good time to force a general election.

Indian Forces, LTTE Continue Jaffna Battle

LTTE Office Captured

BK221141 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* at noon today that the latest figures of LTTE terrorists killed in Jaffna is 640. The IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] has secured the LTTE head office behind the Jaffna government hospital, the area surrounding the Regal Theater, and the Second Cross Street. The KKF-Palaly Road has been opened up by the IPKF who had cleared the road to (Kottadi). Kopai was completely captured.

Street fighting was going on between the road in east of Jaffna as the IPKF was concentrating on it. Reports also said that the IPKF was maintaining a forceful thrust into Jaffna town choosing one of its pincer moves.

Leaflets Urge Surrender

BK230320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force has once again assured the Tamils of Jaffna that their interests will be looked after. A leaflet containing this assurance was air-dropped in Jaffna and surrounding places this morning. It assures the Tamils that India, as the guarantor of the implementation of the accord, is sincerely and genuinely interested in the welfare and safety of all, and solemnly undertakes to look after their interests. It said all LTTE cadres who surrender their arms will be given amnesty and security by the peacekeeping force. The peacekeeping force also assured all possible assistance for their rehabilitation. The peacekeeping force warned the Tamils not to be misled in continuing the futile arms resistance.

The peacekeeping force in an overnight operation consolidated its position in the areas captured by it in the Jaffna town and continued flushing out operations in other places. On other fronts also, the peacekeeping force is making steady progress.

Indians Consolidate Positions

BK230911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Excerpts] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has once again assured the Tamils of Jaffna that their interests will be looked after. A leaflet containing this assurance was air-dropped in Jaffna and the surrounding places this morning. [passage omitted]

The peacekeeping force, in an overnight operation, consolidated its position in the areas captured by it in Jaffna town and continued flushing-out operations in other places. On other fronts also, the peacekeeping force is making steady progress. On intercepting LTTE [communications] it was clearly confirmed that the LTTE did not hesitate even to use the temples for their operations. The intercepts asked for spares and ammunition to be sent to the temples.

As already reported, medicine sent through the Indian Red Cross by the Indian Government were delivered to the Jaffna hospital yesterday. The peacekeeping force doctors are assisting local doctors in treatment of

patients. Patients and staff were provided cooked food and rations yesterday. The peacekeeping force continued to provide food to them in addition to arranging water, diesel, etc.

In the Eastern Province, arms and ammunition dumped by LTTE were unearthed in a place 12 km west of Batticaloa.

IPKF Attacks LTTE Coastal Strongholds

BK221515 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1501 GMT 22 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka deployed its naval sector for the first time in its attack on LTTE's coastal strongolds in Sri Lanka, an official of the Indian High Commission told a press briefing in Colombo this evening.

Special groups of the Indian Navy made a lightning strike on the Gurunagar jetty, a LTTE stronghold, and destroyed supply boats and sailing vessels that could have been used to ferry personnel and armaments.

On the ground the IPKF has made considerable headway and the Jaffna Fort sector of the peace keeping force has brought under its control the Jaffna government hospital and its environs. The IPKF forces pushing forward from Navatkuly linked up with the fort and Manipay sectors. The link-up was established this morning. The LTTE had put up stiff resistance at a number of points, but the IPKF has beaten them off. The LTTE continues to employ women and children as shields.

The IPKF took Kopai South yesterday afternoon and have now moved on to the municipal limits of Jaffna town, quite close to the Nallur Temple. The IPKF from the Palaly-Urumpirai-Jaffna front are now around the university area. In their forward march they had destroyed explosive dumps and booby traps.

The IPKF has provided oxygen cylinders, portable electrical generators, equipment and medicines. Also underway is the supply of food, the resumption of electricity services. The engineering units of the IPKF are also repairing roads.

Air-dropping leaflets calling for the surrender of arms and assuring the LTTE of the protection and security, continues.

The IPKF personnel killed so far in the offensive is 129, injured 383. Twenty-seven are reported missing.

1 Killed, 4 Injured in Land Mine Blast

BK230733 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0719 GMT 23 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 23 (*Lanka Puwath*)—An IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] major was killed and four soldiers were injured when a LTTE landmine exploded in Batticaloa eastern Sri Lanka, this morning. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the explosion occurred at Kalawanchikudi about 4 miles from the Kalkudah police station.

'Insurgents' Kill UNP Supporter in Hungama

BK230743 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0721 GMT 23 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 23 (*Lanka Puwath*)—A supporter of the ruling United National Party (UNP) was shot dead by insurgents of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Permuna (JVP) at Hungama in the deep south of Sri Lanka. A senior police official told *Lanka Puwath* that Dias Vijeybahu, a strong supporter of the UNP, was shot dead last night. A search is on now for the assailants.